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**EXCHANGE OF DELEGATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND MIDDLE
EAST/WEST ASIA,**

January - December 1987

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*Authors: Beth Green
Andrea Savada*

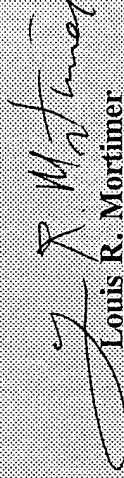
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PREFACE

This study supports estimates on the state of relations between China and Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, and Saudi Arabia during the period 1 January through 31 December 1987. For purposes of comparison, Taiwan's relations with these countries also are addressed. This volume updates Exchange of Delegations Between China and Middle East/West Asia (1 January-31 December 1986), (ICOD: 1 January 1987; the fourth in a series), which chronicled relations between China and 31 countries in the Middle East/West Asia regions, including selected African and South Asian nations.

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SUMMARY

China's relations with the five selected countries of the Middle East/West Asia region examined in this study--Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, and Saudi Arabia--exemplify trends in its Third World policy. Since 1985 China's relations with the region have shown the following most salient characteristics:

- o a willingness to pursue relations with governments and political parties regardless of their social systems or ideology;
- o the continued use of cultural and religious ties to promote bilateral relations, with an emphasis on economic ties between Chinese Muslims and Islamic countries;
- o an emphasis on "mutual benefit" in economic and trade relations, whereby joint venture and business contracts take precedence over grants and aid; and
- o an expanded Chinese role in the international arms trade.

In 1987 fewer delegations were exchanged between China and the five selected countries than in 1986. However, the number of meetings held in third countries increased considerably over the previous year, particularly with Israel, a country with which China has no formal diplomatic relations. There were reports of meetings between Chinese and Israeli foreign officials in such third country locales as the United Nations (New York), Paris, and Geneva. Some of these meetings were confirmed; most were denied by one or both parties. Information on Chinese military relations with the region, especially in arms sales, remained inconclusive, but reports of Chinese weapons deals with Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Israel persisted. Some of the arms sales were confirmed; most were denied by one or both parties. Economic exchanges predominated, although in 1987 a significant number of government delegations were exchanged.

Highlights of Chinese relations with the five selected countries included:

- o the re-establishment of party ties between the Chinese and Israeli communist parties,
- o the sale of SILKWORM missiles to Iran, and
- o increasingly numerous reports of contacts between Israel and China.

1. OVERVIEW

a. China

China's independent foreign policy line, proclaimed in the early 1980s, places a renewed emphasis on its ties with the Third World. The Middle East/West Asia region (see figure 1) is important to China because of Beijing's concern that a conflict there could escalate to involve the superpowers, not because Beijing perceives a direct threat from the region. Beijing seeks to prevent Soviet expansion in the region that would aid what China perceives as Moscow's long-term goals of encircling the People's Republic and achieving global dominance. In addition to reflecting China's strategic interests, Beijing's relations with the region exemplify trends in its Third World policy. Characteristics of China's relations with the Middle East/West Asia region include:

- o a willingness to pursue relations with governments and parties regardless of their social systems or ideology;
- o the continued use of cultural and religious ties to promote bilateral relations, with an emphasis on economic ties between Chinese Muslims and Islamic countries (see figure 2);
- o an emphasis on "mutual benefit" in economic and trade relations, whereby joint ventures and business contracts take precedence over grants and aid;
- o an expanded Chinese role in the international arms trade;
- o the promotion of stability and world peace in order to achieve economic modernization; and
- o criticism of both United States and Soviet policies.

In 1987 slightly fewer delegations were exchanged between China and the five selected countries--Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, and Saudi Arabia--in the Middle East/West Asia region than in the previous year: 40 versus 46. However, the number of outside meetings between Chinese and Israeli officials increased considerably over the number of the previous year--eight outside meetings in 1987 as opposed to one in 1986. These meetings, held in such third country locations as New York, Paris, and Geneva, have been both documented and denied, with still other meetings reported only sketchily. As in previous years, economic exchanges predominated (see Chronology and Statistical Summary).



Figure 2. Saudi Prince Visits Taiwan

Source: Free China Journal [Taipei],
6 July 1987, p. 1.

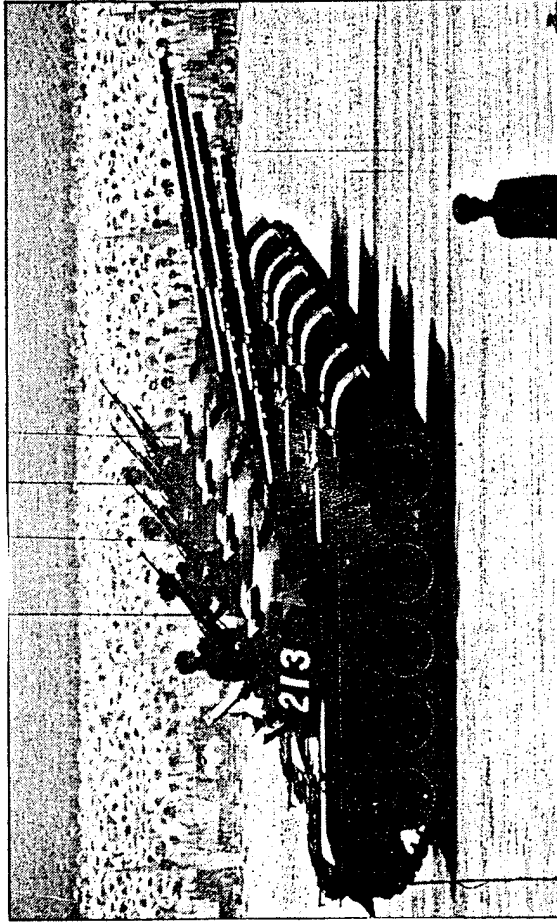


Figure 3. Chinese T-69 tanks fitted with Israeli
fume extractor and fire-control update

Source: Jane's Defence Weekly [Horley, UK],
10 October 1987, p. 832.

(1) Egypt

Exchanges between China and Egypt decreased from nine in 1986 to seven in 1987. A party delegation, trade unionists, and a youth group traveled to Egypt, and a delegation of population experts traveled to China. The Sino-Egyptian Joint Committee for Cooperation in Science and Technology was held in Cairo in March 1987, and the Egyptian-PRC Dialogue Conference was held in Beijing in October 1987. A former Egyptian prime minister visited China for discussions on economic cooperation with State Councillor Zhang Jingfu. No agreements between the two countries were signed, nor were joint ventures established. The level of the members of delegations exchanged were lower than in the previous year, when then-President Li Xiannian visited Egypt.

(2) Iran

China considers the Southwest Asian region from Turkey to Pakistan crucial to Moscow's perceived southward expansionist strategy, which could contribute to the eventual encirclement of China. Because of this possibility, Beijing's ties with countries in the region are heavily influenced by military and strategic considerations, and Southwest Asian nations are among the most often-mentioned recipients of Chinese arms. In addition to a strategic interest in the region, the increase in Chinese arms sales in recent years has been motivated by Beijing's desire to earn foreign exchange.

Although China denies that it supplies arms to Iran, unconfirmed reports of sales proliferate. Unidentified American sources report that Chinese military sales to Iran may total US\$1 billion annually.¹ Further, a Kuwaiti newspaper reported that China and Iran signed an agreement under which China is to help build four factories in Iran to produce ammunition, rockets, and spare parts for tanks; in return China will receive 28 million barrels of oil annually. The newspaper also said that China may deliver MiG-19 planes, T-59 tanks, field guns, and SA2 and SA7 antiaircraft missiles to Iran.² There were further reports of a \$550 million deal whereby China would exchange SILKWORM missiles for Iranian oil. China denied the reports but then-US National Security Advisor Frank Carlucci rejected the Chinese denial. Reagan Administration officials also have said that despite China's repeated denials of arms sales to Iran, Iran received a shipment of artillery pieces and ammunition from China in October 1987. Unidentified US intelligence reports have said that 100 sophisticated Chinese C-801 antiship surface-to-surface missiles either have been delivered or may be enroute to Iran. The two countries also are believed to be completing arrangements through Hong Kong for further shipments of SILKWORMs. Since late 1986, Chinese technicians have been teaching Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Iran how to assemble, fire, and maintain SILKWORMs.³

¹ Jane's Defence Weekly [Horley, UK], 7 November 1987, p. 1044.

² Washington Post, 11 June 1987, p. A29.

³ Elaine Sciolino, "China Is Still Arming Iran, U.S. Says," New York Times, 28 October 1987, p. A3.

Twelve delegations were exchanged between China and Iran in 1987--one more than in 1986. Iranian health, education, labor, and agricultural delegations traveled to China. A Chinese sports delegation visited Iran and signed a letter of understanding on sports cooperation. Also, a Chinese delegation attended a session of the Sino-Iranian Joint Committee for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation and Trade; the two sides agreed to expand trade and sales of Iranian crude oil to China. Other visits included discussions of the Persian Gulf situation, and signing of an agreement for Iran to purchase Chinese fishing trawlers, and to cooperate with China in developing in fisheries and rural industries. There also was a meeting between Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Wu Xueqian and Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Akbar Velayati in September 1987 in New York, where both were attending the United Nations General Assembly. Also in September, when Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati visited China to discuss the Gulf conflict, an Iraqi delegation led by the president of the Iraqi National Assembly was received in Beijing. Two Iranian delegations traveled to Taiwan in 1986; none were exchanged in 1987.

(3) Iraq

Iraqi exchanges with China decreased from eight in 1986 to six in 1987. One Iraqi delegation visited Taiwan in 1986; there were no exchanges in 1987. Iraqi government officials paid a goodwill visit to China, and party and friendship delegations traveled there. A Chinese Communist Party (CCP) delegation traveled to Iraq to sign an agreement on cooperation between the CCP and the Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party. One Iraqi delegation visited China as part of a seven-nation Arab League delegation discussion of the Iran-Iraq war. The war also was discussed during the goodwill visit of another delegation.

(4) Israel

China continues to express concern about the war-torn Levant region (Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and the Palestine Liberation Organization) in its many statements on the Arab-Israeli conflict. The key points of China's official policy toward the Levant region are:

- o opposition to Israel's "aggression and expansion" supported by the United States;
- o insistence that Israel withdraw from the Arab territories it has occupied since 1967;
- o support for Palestinian rights and Palestinian solidarity under the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO);
- o advocacy of Arab unity behind the Palestinian cause to achieve peace in the Middle East; and
- o the belief that all countries in the region, as well as the PLO, have the right to exist.

The most controversial aspect of China's relations with the region were Beijing's policy toward Israel, especially the increasing evidence of clandestine military and economic relations despite the two countries' lack of diplomatic relations. A great deal more activity between China and Israel occurred in 1987 than in the previous year, with the number of exchanges rising from three in 1986 to nine in 1987. Further, the number of third country meetings increased from one in 1986 to eight in 1987. The majority of the reports of exchanges between China and Israel in 1987 either were unconfirmed accounts of personal contacts or arms sales or denials of such reports by Beijing or Tel Aviv. The exception was the visit of the Israeli Communist Party's first delegation to China in 30 years to reestablish ties with the Chinese Communist Party. There also were academic and technical exchanges in the context of various international fora held in Israel. They were attended by Chinese water experts, biophysicists, and a representative to the conference of International Scientific Radio Union, respectively.

Third country meetings often were held in conjunction with other events--for example the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in New York--and as reported contacts in Paris and Geneva. China's permanent representative to the UN, Li Luye, met twice with Director General of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs Avraham Tamir in New York in March and September 1987--at the second meeting Tamir announced that a permanent channel of communication has been opened between the two countries, and that they will establish diplomatic relations after a proposed international conference on the Middle East is successfully convened.⁴ In June 1987, Wang Lanjiang, a Chinese Embassy official in Paris, also noted that establishment of diplomatic ties awaits the resolution of Middle East problems. The same official said that China has unofficial informational and commercial contacts with Israel and wishes to develop scientific and technological ties.⁵ Hadashot (Tel Aviv) reported secret meetings between Chinese officials and Israeli vice prime minister and foreign minister Shim'on Peres in Switzerland in June 1987 and again with Tamir in unnamed locations in Asia and Europe.⁶ There also were unconfirmed and unpublicized contacts between the Israeli and Chinese ambassadors to France--which the Chinese Embassy there strongly denied. And, Israel's ambassador to France reportedly met with China's President Li Xiannian when he visited France in November 1987. Further, Shim'on Peres also met with then-Minister of Foreign Affairs Wu Xueqian at China's UN headquarters in New York in September 1987 and held an unconfirmed meeting at a later date with an unidentified Chinese vice premier in Geneva. Ambassador Li Luye met with Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's UN ambassador, in New York in October 1987.

The exchange of economic delegations and their developing contacts were another highlight of Sino-Israeli relations. The Israeli press reported an agreement between the two countries for the purchase of 60,000 tons of coal from the Pingshou mine on a trial basis, and a future trip by Israel's energy minister to negotiate a long-term agreement.⁷ It also was reported that Israel is assisting China in establishing a diamond industry and that China purchases large quantities of diamonds from Israel through Hong Kong.⁸

⁴ Washington Post, 29 March 1987, p. A21; FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 11 September 1987, pp. 14-15.

⁵ FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 22 June 1987, p. L2.

⁶ FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 29 June 1987, pp. L1-2; 30 June 1987, p. L1; FBIS/China, 13 July 1987, p. F1.

⁷ FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 3 September 1987, p. L3.

⁸ FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 26 June 1987, p. L2.

There also have been reports--and retractions--that China is allowing Israeli tourists to visit China.⁹ And, Yoram Lass, Israel's director general, Ministry of Health, visited China in November 1987--the highest-ranking government official to do so, although a Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson said he was invited in his capacity as an expert physiologist--prior to his appointment to the health ministry.

In the military sphere, the media reported that Chinese T-69 tanks have been seen with a distinctive fume extractor half way along the gun barrel. This Israeli characteristic indicated that Israel rather than the United Kingdom sold China a gun and fire-control update worth hundreds of millions of dollars.¹⁰

(5) Saudi Arabia

Although China does not have diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia, three delegations were exchanged between Saudi Arabia and China in 1987. A Saudi religious delegation and the Saudi agriculture minister traveled to China, and a Chinese delegation traveled to Saudi Arabia to sign trade contracts. The latter delegation was from the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade.

In 1986 exchanges between Saudi Arabia and Taiwan--which do have formal diplomatic ties--were notable because of the number (nine); in 1987 only three delegations were exchanged between the two countries--equal to the number of exchanges between China and Saudi Arabia. In 1987 a Taiwanese mission visited Riyadh to assist in establishing a junior agricultural college; a Saudi prince visited Taiwan to "investigate economic conditions;" and the assistant deputy minister of finance and national economy, concurrently the general coordinator of the Sino-Saudi Economic Cooperation Committee traveled to Taipei.

b. Taiwan

The Middle East/West Asia region is important to Taiwan primarily as a source of trade and economic cooperation, especially in the field of oil imports. Taiwan's policy in the region concentrates on the Arabian Peninsula. Taiwan's exchanges with the five selected countries, however, decreased in 1987 from 1986 levels. In fact, Taiwan's only Middle East/West Asian exchanges in 1987 were with Saudi Arabia (three)--the only country in the region with which it has diplomatic relations-- down from ten the previous year. The three delegations exchanged between Taiwan and Saudi Arabia were economic.

The level of activity between Taiwan and the other five selected countries also decreased in 1987 over the previous year. No delegations were exchanged between Taiwan and either Iran or Iraq in 1987; in 1986 two Iraqi

⁹ FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 5 August 1987, pp. L2-3; 20 October 1987, p. 26.

¹⁰ "Israel's Links with China," Jane's Defence Weekly [Horley, UK], 10 October 1987, pp. 832, 835.

delegations had visited Taiwan and one Taiwanese delegation had visited Iraq. There also were no delegations exchanged between Taiwan and Egypt or Israel in 1986 and 1987.

To Taiwan, Saudi Arabia is the most important country in the region, both as an oil supplier and especially because it is one of the few influential nations in the world maintaining diplomatic relations with Taipei. Prince Sultan Bin Salman Bin Abdul Aziz visited Taiwan in July 1987 as an economic representative of King Fahd, and Mohammed T. Al-Daries, assistant deputy minister of finance and national economy, visited Taiwan the following month in his position as general coordinator of the Sino-Saudi Economic Cooperation Committee. Wu Kung-hsien, president of the Pingtung Agricultural College in Taiwan, visited Riyadh in October 1987 to assist in establishing a junior agricultural college there.

For further information on exchanges, consult the chronology that follows this text.

Table

CHINA AND TAIWAN: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SELECTED MIDDLE EAST/WEST ASIAN COUNTRIES

Region/Country	Relations with PRC/Date	Relations with Taiwan	Relations with Neither
Egypt	X 16 May 56		
Iran	X 16 Aug 71		
Iraq	X 25 Aug 58		
Israel	-	-	X
Saudi Arabia	-	X	-

2. CHRONOLOGY OF EXCHANGES: BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA AND CATEGORY

The following chronology, dealing with delegations exchanged between China and Taiwan and the Middle East/West Asia region during the period 1 January through 31 December 1987, is organized by the five countries visited:

- o Egypt
- o Iran
- o Iraq
- o Israel
- o Saudi Arabia

Although most of the chronological entries are of formal delegations exchanged by China and Taiwan with the five selected countries in the Middle East/West Asia region, other contacts have also been noted when considered significant. Delegations and interchanges have been categorized as one or more of the following:

- o government (G)
- o military (M)
- o economic (E)
- o cultural (C)
- o political (P)
- o other (O)

The economic category includes medical, scientific, and technical exchanges, in addition to trade and loan delegations. Friendship delegations and groups of parliamentarians, journalists, and trade union representatives come under the "other" category. Political delegations are primarily party-to-party contacts, and cultural delegations include religious, sports, and educational groups, as well as performances and art exhibitions.

The information in the chronology was derived from a variety of open sources, the primary ones being Xinhua (New China News Agency) reports taken from the Foreign Broadcast Information Service's Daily Report: China, Daily Report: Near East and South Asia, and the periodical China Aktuell, published by the Institute for Asian Studies in Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany.

3. STATISTICAL SUMMARY

This section includes a statistical summary, by area and country, of the numbers and types of delegations exchanged between China or Taiwan and the five selected countries in the Middle East/West Asia region. Meetings in third country locations also are included in the statistics.

The totals are based on the categorization of each delegation as either government (G), economic (E), military (M), political (P), cultural (C), or other (O). The last category includes parliamentary groups, trade union officials, journalists, friendship delegations, and groups which cannot be clearly categorized. Meetings between Israeli and Chinese officials have been characterized as (G) rather than (O) because such contacts are of an incipient governmental nature. When a delegation has a dual purpose, such as military-political, it is included under both the military and political category columns but counted only once in the total. In the period covered by this study (1 January-31 December 1987), there were three dual-purpose delegations. An example of a dual-purpose delegation is a government delegation visit during which an economic agreement is signed, considered both government (G) and economic (E).

Egypt

EXCHANGE OF DELEGATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND MIDDLE EAST/ WEST ASIA

REGION	COUNTRY	DATE	NAME/POSITION	CATEGORY	EVENT/SOURCE	NUMBER
Africa-North	Egypt	01/19/87	Zhu Liang, Director, CCP International Liaison Department	P	Party delegation to Egypt EBIS/China, 23 Jan 87, p.11	1805
Africa-North	Egypt	02/24/87	Yang Le, Vice Chairman, All-China Youth Federation	C	Four-member Chinese youth delegation visits Egypt as first stop on Middle Eastern tour Summary of World Broadcasts (Caversham Park, UK), 10 Mar 87, FE/8512/A4/1	1859
Africa-North	Egypt	03/07/87	Pan Zhiyuan, Department Director, State Science and Technology Commission	E	4-member Chinese scientists' delegation arrives in Cairo for first meeting of the Sino-Egyptian Joint Committee for Cooperation in Science and Technology EBIS/China, 9 Mar 87, p.18	1831
Africa-North	Egypt	04/04/87	Unidentified trade unionists	O	Attend 3-day symposium in Beijing on role of trade unions in development EBIS/China, 8 Apr 87, p.12	1855
Africa-North	Egypt	10/19/87	'Abd al-'Aziz Hijazi, Former Prime Minister of Egypt	E	Meets with Chinese State Councillor Zhang Jingfu in Beijing to discuss economic cooperation EBIS/China, 21 Oct 87, p.3	1974
Africa-North	Egypt	10/21/87	Dr. Butrus Ghali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs	G	Leads delegation attending second Egyptian-PRC Dialogue Conference in Beijing; meets with PRC President Li Xiannian EBIS/China, 23 Oct 87, p.11	1975
Africa-North	Egypt	11/16/87	Dr. Maher Mahran, Director General, National Population Council of Egypt	E	Population delegation meets with Zhou Guoheng, Vice-Chairman, National People's Congress Standing Committee in Beijing EBIS/China, 18 Nov 87, p.10	2007

Iran

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EXCHANGE OF DELEGATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND MIDDLE EAST/ WEST ASIA

REGION	COUNTRY	DATE	NAME/POSITION	CATEGORY	EVENT/SOURCE	NUMBER
SW Asia	Iran	04/06/87	- - -	M	According to Reuter, Iran acknowledges it acquired Chinese-made missiles and says it also is developing a short-range surface-to-surface missile and a longer-range missile with Chinese assistance	1882
SW Asia	Iran	04/13/87	Ali Reza Marandi, Minister of Health Care and Training	E	Health delegation to China explores cooperation in traditional medicine	1852
SW Asia	Iran	06/08/87	Seied Nematollah Abtahi Foroushani, Deputy Minister of Education	C	Education delegation to China studies China's efforts to eliminate illiteracy	1917
SW Asia	Iran	06/10/87	- - -	M E	FBIS/China, 15 Apr 87, p.112 Washington Post cites Kuwaiti newspaper report that China and Iran signed agreement for China to build four factories in Iran to produce ammunition, rockets, and spare parts for tanks in return for annual receipt of 28 million barrels of oil; China strongly denies report of \$550 million deal whereby SILKWORM missiles were exchanged for oil; US National Security Advisor Frank Carlucci rejects Chinese denial and says Iran already has 20 SILKWORM missiles and may acquire twice that many; Kuwaiti newspaper says China also may deliver MIG-19 planes, 200 T-59 tanks, field guns, and SA2 and SA7 antiaircraft missiles to Iran	1899
SW Asia	Iran	06/12/87	'Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister of Foreign Affairs	G	Washington Post, 11 Jun 87, p.A29 Visits China to discuss Iran-Iraq War; denies Iran has received arms from China either directly or indirectly	1916
SW Asia	Iran	07/21/87	Li Menghua, Minister in Charge, State Physical Culture and Sports Commission	C	FBIS/China, 15 Jun 87, pp.F2-4 3-day visit to Iran by sports delegation; signs letter of understanding on sports cooperation	1939
SW Asia	Iran	07/30/87	Liu Yi, Minister of Commerce	E	FBIS/China, 22 Jul 87, p.F2; FBIS/China, 27 Jul 87, p.F5 13-member Chinese delegation attends third session of Sino-Iranian Joint Committee for Economic,	1933

EXCHANGE OF DELEGATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND MIDDLE EAST/ WEST ASIA

REGION	COUNTRY	DATE	NAME/POSITION	CATEGORY	EVENT/SOURCE	NUMBER
Southwest Asia	Iran	08/00/87	Qi Huaiyuan, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs	G	Scientific, and Technical Cooperation and Trade in Iran; two sides agree to expand trade to \$500 million, including sale of Iranian crude oil to China FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 6 Aug 87, pp.S4-5; FBIS/China, 7 Aug 87, p.F1	2069
SW Asia	Iran	08/18/87	Unidentified head, Iranian economic delegation	E	Meets high-ranking officials including Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis, and Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi; discusses Gulf situation FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 28 Aug 87, pp.S2-3; FBIS/China, 25 Aug 87, p.3	1938
SW Asia	Iran	09/10/87:	Ali Mohammad Besharati, Deputy Foreign Minister	G	Iranian delegation meets with Premier Zhao Ziyang and Minister of Foreign Affairs Wu Xueqian in Beijing to discuss Gulf conflict; coincides with visit of Iraqi delegation FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 18 Aug 87, p.S5	1956
SW Asia	Iran	09/19/87	Reza Amrollahi, Head, Iran Atomic Energy Organization	E	FBIS/China, 12 Sep 87, pp.8-9; 15 Sep 87, p.35 Attends conference of Third World Science Academies in Beijing	1957
SW Asia	Iran	09/21/87	A. Mo'meni, Member, Central Council of the Labor House	O	FBIS/China, 21 Sep 87, p.11 Leads a delegation of labor officials to Beijing	1980
SW Asia	Iran	09/22/87	Wu Xueqian, Minister of Foreign Affairs	G	FBIS/China, 24 Sep 87, p.9 Meets Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Akbar Velayati in New York (both are attending the UN General Assembly) to discuss the Gulf conflict FBIS/China, 23 Sep 87, p.41	1978

EXCHANGE OF DELEGATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND MIDDLE EAST/ WEST ASIA

REGION	COUNTRY	DATE	NAME/POSITION	CATEGORY	EVENT/SOURCE	NUMBER
SW Asia	Iran	10/00/87	--	M	Despite China's repeated denials of selling arms to Iran, Reagan Administration officials say that Iran received a shipment of artillery pieces and shells from China in the last two weeks; according to intelligence reports, 100 sophisticated C-801 anti-ship surface-to-surface missiles either have been delivered recently or may be on their way to Iran; the two countries are also believed to be completing arrangements through Hong Kong for further shipments of SILKWORMS; since the first delivery of SILKWORMS to Iran in late 1986, Chinese technicians have been in Iran training Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Iran how to assemble, fire, and maintain the missiles	2045
SW Asia	Iran	10/15/87	Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemian Tabasi, Custodian, Holy Shrine of Imam Reza, personal representative of Khomeini	O G	Elaine Sciolino, "China Is Still Arming Iran, U.S. Says," New York Times, 28 Oct 87, p.A3; Jane's Defence Weekly (Horley, UK), 7 Nov 87, p. 1024.	1981
SW Asia	Iran	11/01/87	--	M	Delegation of Iranian religious and foreign ministry officials in Beijing meets with head of Chinese People's Congress (sic) FEIS/China, 16 Oct 87, p. 7	2010
Southwest Asia	Iran	12/02/87	Ma Yuzhen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman	M	Unidentified US sources report that Chinese military sales to Iran total US\$1 billion annually--almost half of Iran's total purchases; Chinese merchant ships are said to have delivered 96 SILKWORM missiles to Iran Jane's Defence Weekly (Horley, UK), 7 Nov 87, p.1044	1982
					Ma says China has "taken measures to prevent Chinese-made (SILKWORM) missiles entering the international market"--adding that "China sells no weapons to Iran, including missiles." China has repeatedly denied supplying arms to Teheran in the Iran-Iraq war though US officials say they have obtained photographs of ships loading weapons in China and unloading their cargo in Iran. US intelligence source say China has bought at least \$2.4 billion worth of Chinese arms since 1980. R.S. Sasheen, "Chinese Halt Sales of Silkworm Missiles," Asian Defence Journal (Kuala Lumpur), Jan 88, p. 103	

EXCHANGE OF DELEGATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND MIDDLE EAST/ WEST ASIA

REGION	COUNTRY	DATE	NAME/POSITION	CATEGORY	EVENT/SOURCE	NUMBER
SW Asia	Iran	12/08/87	Jihad Bijan Nandar-zangeneh, Minister of Construction	E	Iranian delegation in Beijing meets with Chinese Minister of Commerce; talks with agricultural officials about joint cooperation in fisheries and rural industries	2012

FRIS/China, 9 Dec 87, p.6

Iraq

EXCHANGE OF DELEGATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND MIDDLE EAST/ WEST ASIA

REGION	COUNTRY	DATE	NAME/POSITION	CATEGORY	EVENT/SOURCE	NUMBER
SW Asia	Iraq	02/17/87	Taha Yasin Ramadan, First Deputy Prime Minister	G	Official goodwill visit to China EBIS/China, 18 Feb 87, pp.11-4	1815
SW Asia	Iraq	04/27/87	'Aullah Hayawi al-Hamash, Member, Bureau for Foreign Relations, Arab Ba'th Socialist Party	P	Party delegation to China EBIS/China, 1 May 87, p.11	1875
SW Asia	Iraq	05/13/87	Tariq Mikhayl 'Aziz, Minister of Foreign Affairs	G	Visits China as part of 7-nation Arab League delegation to discuss Iran-Iraq War EBIS/China, 14 May 87, p.11; EBIS/China, 15 May 87, pp.11-3	1898
SW Asia	Iraq	06/20/87	Zhu Shangqing, Deputy Director, CCP International Liaison Department	E	Party delegation to Iraq signs agreement on cooperation between CCP and the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, similar to one signed in 1984; meets with Minister of Industry Hatim 'Abd al-Rashid EBIS/Near East & South Asia, 25 Jun 87, p.K2	1907
SW Asia	Iraq	09/10/87	Sa'dun Hammadi, President, Iraq National Assembly	G	Iraqi delegation arrives on week-long "goodwill visit" at invitation of Chinese National People's Congress Standing Committee to discuss Gulf conflict; meets with Premier Zhao Ziyang, Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian and National People's Congress Chairman Peng Zhen; coincides with visit of Iranian delegation EBIS/China, 12 Sep 87, pp.6-7	1959
SW Asia	Iraq	09/21/87	'Issa Slaman, President, Iraq-China Friendship Association	O	Friendship Association delegation meets with Huang Hua, Vice-Chairman of the National People's Congress, in Beijing EBIS/China, 21 Sep 87, p.11	1960

Israel

EXCHANGE OF DELEGATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND MIDDLE EAST/ WEST ASIA

REGION	COUNTRY	DATE	NAME/POSITION	CATEGORY	EVENT/SOURCE	NUMBER
Levant	Israel	03/27/87		G	Report that China's Ambassador to the United Nations Li Luyue met with Director General of the Israeli Foreign Ministry Avraham Tamir at the United Nations; first high-level Sino-Israeli contact reported in the Chinese press was part of Israeli meetings with each permanent member of the UN Security Council to discuss Middle East problems Washington Post, 29 Mar 87, p.A21	1839
Levant	Israel	06/21/87		G E	Chinese Embassy official in Paris Wang Lanjiang says China has unofficial informational and commercial contacts with Israel and wishes to develop scientific and technological ties as well; says establishment of diplomatic ties awaits resolution of Middle East problems	1904
Levant	Israel	06/25/87	Unnamed leader, Israeli diamond industry	E	FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 22 Jun 87, p.L2 According to President of Diamond Exchange Moshe Schnitzer, unnamed Israeli diamond industrialist is in China to assist China in establishing local diamond industry; China reportedly purchases large quantities of diamonds from Israel through Hong Kong	1906
Levant	Israel	06/26/87	Me'ir Vilner, General Secretary, Israeli Communist Party (RAKAH)	P	FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 26 Jun 87, p.L2 Leads Israeli Communist Party's first delegation to Beijing in 30 years; reestablishes ties with the CCP; Vilner is accompanied by George Tubi, Secretary of RAKAH's Central Committee and says his discussions are on party-to-party ties only and do not have anything to do with the Israeli Government	1905
Levant	Israel	06/29/87	Various Chinese and Israeli officials	G	FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 26 Jun 87, p.L2; Beijing Review, 13 Jul 87, p.5; Ta Kung Pao Weekly Supplement (Hong Kong), 9-15 Jul 87, p.3 HaShahot (Tel Aviv) reports on secret meetings between Chinese officials and Israeli Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Switzerland in Jun 87 and with Director General of the Israeli Foreign Ministry Avraham Tamir over the past few months in Asia and Europe, as well as several unpublicized contacts between Israeli and Chinese Ambassadors to France 'Ovadya Sofer and Zhou Jue in the past; Chinese Embassy in Paris strongly	1911

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REGION	COUNTRY	DATE	NAME/POSITION	CATEGORY	EVENT/SOURCE	NUMBER
Levant	Israel	07/05/87	Unidentified head, Chinese scientists	E	denies any ambassadorial meetings FBIS/Near_East & South Asia, 29 Jun 87, pp.L1-2; FBIS/Near_East & South Asia, 30 Jun 87, p.L1	1913
Levant	Israel	07/07/87	- - -	G	Group of Chinese scientists who received US fellowships reportedly make clandestine visit to Israel and meet with Israel academics; a Chinese researcher reportedly carries out research at the Hebrew University's Truman Institute FBIS/Near_East & South Asia, 13 Jul 87, p.L7; FBIS/Near_East & South Asia, 16 Jul 87, pp.L2-3	1942
Levant	Israel	07/26/87	Unidentified head, Israeli desert researchers	E	Hadashot (Tel Aviv) reports that Israeli Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Shim'on Peres will meet with a Chinese Vice Premier in Geneva to discuss an international conference on the Middle East FBIS/China, 13 Jul 87, p.F1	1926
Levant	Israel	07/27/87	- - -	M	Five Israeli researchers visit China as guests of Chinese Academy of Sciences Desert Research Institute to participate in international seminar; they met Chinese counterparts at an earlier seminar in Egypt FBIS/Near_East & South Asia, 27 Jul 87, p.L7	1927
Levant	Israel	08/04/87	- - -	C E	Yedi'ot Aharonot (Tel Aviv) reports that according to French weekly Le Journal de Dimanche, Israel has acted as an arms agent between China and Iran on many occasions FBIS/Near_East & South Asia, 28 Jul 87, p.L2	1928
					Yedi'ot Aharonot (Tel Aviv) reports that China has retracted its agreement to allow Israeli passport holders to comprise up to 20 percent of organized US tour groups to China; in another report, the Israeli Government's Medals and Coins Company states that China purchased Israeli medals FBIS/Near_East & South Asia, 5 Aug 87, pp.L2-3	

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REGION	COUNTRY	DATE	NAME/POSITION	CATEGORY	EVENT/SOURCE	NUMBER
Levant	Israel	08/23/87	Unidentified head, Chinese biophysicists	E	Group of Chinese scientists attend Ninth International Congress on Biophysics held at Hebrew University, Jerusalem	1943
Levant	Israel	08/31/87	Unidentified representative, Chinese Ministry of Communications	E	FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 24 Aug 87, p.L2 Attends 22nd triennial conference of the International Scientific Radio Union in Jerusalem; in interview with Jerusalem Post expresses hope for greater scientific exchange between Israel and China	1963
Levant	Israel	09/02/87	- - -	E	FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 2 Sep 87, p.L1 Ha'olam Haze (Tel Aviv) reports that on 21 May 87 Hua Zugu of the Chinese Coal Import and Export Company and Yosef Koltz of the Israel Coal Company signed an agreement for Israel to purchase 60,000 tons of coal from the Pingshou mine on a trial basis; Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal is reportedly about to make a trip to China to negotiate a long-term agreement	1961
Levant	Israel	09/09/87	Avraham Tamir, Director General, Israeli Foreign Ministry	G	FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 3 Sep 87, p.L3 Meets in New York with Li Luye, Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations (the second such meeting); announces that a permanent channel of communication between China and Israel has been opened, and that the two nations will establish diplomatic relations after a proposed international conference on Middle East peace is successfully convened	1962
Levant	Israel	09/29/87	- - -	M	FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 11 Sep 87, pp.14-15 Tel Aviv IDF Radio reports that unidentified foreign sources indicate that Israel and the PRC have "broad defense-related ties"	1984
Levant	Israel	09/30/87	Shim'on Peres, Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister	G	FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 30 Sep 87, p.21 Meets with PRC Minister of Foreign Affairs Wu Xueqian at headquarters for the Chinese delegation to the UN in New York; discusses possible settlement of Middle East conflict; this is the first ministerial-level meeting between the two countries	1983
					China Daily (Beijing), 2 Oct 87, p.1	

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REGION	COUNTRY	DATE	NAME/POSITION	CATEGORY	EVENT/SOURCE	NUMBER
Levant	Israel	10/00/87	--	M	Notes belief of leading Israeli academic that as arms sales to South Africa decline, Israel may try to increase its arms sales to China; also notes unconfirmed reports that Israel has a flourishing, multi-billion dollar covert arms hardware and know-how arrangement with China spread over 2 to 5 years; Israel plans to replace South Africa with China as a major coal supplier and plans sample coal imports--and possibly barter deals; Chinese T-69 tanks have been seen with a distinctive Israeli-designed fume extractor half way along the gun barrel--Israel beat the UK to a gun and fire-control update worth hundreds of millions of dollars; Israel is believed to operate with China mainly from its mission in Singapore	2070
Levant	Israel	10/05/87	Unidentified Chinese "Businessmen"	E	"Israel's Links with China," Jang's Defence Weekly (Horley, UK), 10 Oct 87, pp. 832,835	1985
Levant	Israel	10/06/87	Li Luyue, Chinese Ambassador to the UN	G	Yadi'ot Aharonot reports that Israeli Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon had several meetings with PRC "businessmen" who visited Israel; Israel will allow imports from China "on the basis of mutuality"	1986
Levant	Israel	10/11/87	--	O	FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 6 Oct 87, p.19 Meets with Binyamin Netanyahu, Israeli Ambassador to the UN, at undisclosed location in New York; discusses proposals for economic cooperation and practical details of maintaining contacts	1987
Levant	Israel	10/28/87	Tu Yongzhang, Water Conservancy Research Institute	E	FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 3 Oct 87, p.25 Hadashot (Tel Aviv) reports that the PRC is allowing Israeli tourists to visit China "as the first step toward a political thaw"	2013
Levant	Israel	10/28/87	Tu Yongzhang, Water Conservancy Research Institute	E	FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 20 Oct 87, p.26 Three PRC water experts attend an international seminar on irrigation at the Vulkani Institute in Bet Dagan; Ma'ariv (Tel Aviv) reports the start of a UN-sponsored joint Sino-Israeli irrigation project and growing PRC interest in purchasing Israeli irrigation equipment	2013

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REGION	COUNTRY	DATE	NAME/POSITION	CATEGORY	EVENT/SOURCE	NUMBER
Levant	Israel	11/10/87	Ovadya Sofer, Israeli Ambassador to France	G	FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 29 Oct 87, p.30 Meets with PRC President Li Xiannian at an unidentified public function; Li tells Sofer that although the two countries have no formal relations, China "has a deep regard for Israel"	2014
Levant	Israel	11/24/87	Yoram Lass, Director General, Ministry of Health	E	FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 12 Nov 87, p.37 Lass is the highest-ranking Israeli government official to visit China; he was invited in his capacity as an expert physiologist before his appointment to the Health Ministry; the Chinese Foreign Ministry objects to press portrayal of the visit as a significant political move	2015

FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 25 Nov 87, p.26

Saudi Arabia

EXCHANGE OF DELEGATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND MIDDLE EAST/ WEST ASIA

REGION	COUNTRY	DATE	NAME/POSITION	CATEGORY	EVENT/SOURCE	NUMBER
Arabian Pen	Saudi Arabia	00/00/87	Edward Kuan, Ambassador to Saudi Arabia	E	Taiwan only country of top ten exporters to Saudi Arabia in 1986 with positive growth rate; bilateral trade in 1986 was \$1.54 billion--Taiwan exported \$626.3 million to Saudi Arabia; Saudi Arabia sold exports worth \$911.3 million to Taiwan	2044
Arabian Pen	Saudi Arabia	03/14/87	Jamil Abdel-Rahman, Deputy Director, China Haj Affairs Office, Saudi Pilgrimage Company	C	Free_China_Journal (Taipei), 29 Jun 87, p.4 Pays 9-day visit to Beijing and Ningxia at invitation of Chinese Islamic Association to discuss Chinese Haj mission to Mecca in 1987	1843
Arabian Pen	Saudi Arabia	07/01/87	Prince Sultan Bin Salman Bin Abdul Aziz, astronaut	E	FBIS/China, 23 Mar 87, p.11 Saudi prince, first astronaut from the Arab and Islamic world, visits Taiwan to investigate economic conditions for King Fahd; visits research institutions and is awarded the Order of the Brilliant Star with Grand Cordon by Foreign Minister Ding Mou-shih	1912
Arabian Pen	Saudi Arabia	08/17/87	Mohammed T. Al-Darries, Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance and National Economy	E	China_Post (Taipei), 3 Jul 87, p.1; Free_China_Journal (Taipei), 6 Jul 87, p.1 Al-Darries, General Coordinator of the Sino-Saudi Economic Cooperation Committee meets ROC Vice Minister of Foreign and Economic Affairs in Taipei	1970
Arabian Pen	Saudi Arabia	10/01/87	Wu Kung-hsien, President, Pingtung Agricultural College	E	China_Post (Taipei), 17 Aug 87, p.1 Leads Taiwan delegation to Riyadh in early Oct 87 to assist in the establishment of a junior agricultural college	2002
Arabian Pen	Saudi Arabia	11/18/87	Jia Shi, President, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade	E	Free_China_Journal (Taipei), 5 Oct 87, p.3 Chinese business and government leaders from the Council for the Promotion of International Trade, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade and other organizations visit Dhahran, meet with Sheikh Abdul Aziz al-Guraishi, Governor of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency; sign contracts for trade in urea and broadbeans	2030
					China_Daily, Business Weekly Supplement (Beijing), 7 Dec 87, p.1	

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REGION	COUNTRY	DATE	NAME/POSITION	CATEGORY	EVENT/SOURCE	NUMBER
Arabian Pen	Saudi Arabia	12/00/87	Al al-Shaykh, Minister of Agriculture & Water	E P	Saudi Agriculture Minister visits Beijing and delivers messages to President Li Xiannian on the Gulf situation and the Middle East problem	2067
					FBIS/Near East & South Asia, 13 Apr 88, p.1	

STATISTICAL SUMMARY--REGIONAL TOTALS

Delegations to and from the PRC and Taiwan, 1 January - 31 December 1986

Region	Total	TO PRC						TO TAIWAN						
		Govt	Econ	Mill	Pol	Cul	Other	Total	Govt	Econ	Mill	Pol	Cul	Other
Egypt	4	1	2	-	-	-	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iran	9	2	4	-	-	1	2	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iraq	5	3	-	-	1	-	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Israel	4	-	3	-	1	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saudi Arabia	2	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Total	24	6	10	0	3	2	4	2	0	2	0	0	0	0

Region	Total	FROM PRC						FROM TAIWAN						
		Govt	Econ	Mill	Pol	Cul	Other	Total	Govt	Econ	Mill	Pol	Cul	Other
Egypt	3	-	1	-	1	1	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iran	4*	2	1	-	-	1	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iraq	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Israel	12*	7	5	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saudi Arabia	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Total	21	9	9	0	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0

* includes Third country locations