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Wang reflects on global developments

Beijing's top diplomat calls on the US to shrug off its zero-sum mentality and positively view China's growth

By CAO DESHENG
and MO JINGXI

Differences between China and the United States cannot be resolved overnight, but isolation is not a solution due to the two nations' close connections and great convergence of interests, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Dec 11 in Beijing.

Wang made the remark in the keynote speech at a symposium on international developments and China's diplomacy in 2018.

China and the US established diplomatic relations 40 years ago, a time when China also launched its reform and opening-up, he said.

"Both historical processes have exerted a significant impact on the

world," Wang said, noting that the progress achieved in China's reform and opening-up as well as in the Sino-US relationship far exceeded expectations.

Wang said the development of bilateral ties over the past 40 years has taught China and the US that cooperation serves the interests of both countries as well as the world, and no one benefits from confrontation. People from both countries should stay focused on this valuable consensus, he added.

In the face of trade friction between the two sides, Wang said China resolutely safeguards its interests, national dignity and development rights; firmly upholds the rules-based multilateral trading system; and pursues an approach based on dialogue, mutual respect, equality

and good-faith negotiations.

He called on the US to shrug off its zero-sum mentality, positively view China's growth and continue to broaden prospects for the mutual benefit of both nations. "There is no need for the US to impose an imagined rivalry on itself," Wang said.

During the speech, Wang recalled the meeting between President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart Donald Trump on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit earlier this month in Argentina, saying the two leaders agreed to advance bilateral ties on the basis of coordination, cooperation and stability.

Wang also pledged to safeguard Chinese citizens around the world through consular protection, saying the nation cares about each and every Chinese national's safety.

The country will not turn a deaf ear to bullying practices that harm the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese citizens, Wang said.

The senior diplomat reviewed the international situation for the year, saying uncertainties are growing due to the fact that unilateralism is on the rise and the existing international system is under attack.

Despite the challenges, Wang said, China is focused on reform and opening-up, remains committed to upholding economic globalization, free trade and multilateralism, and will develop win-win cooperation, particularly under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative.

This is the fifth time Wang attended the symposium and reviewed China's diplomacy.

Su Hao, a professor of Asia-Pacif-

ic studies at China Foreign Affairs University, said summit diplomacy by the heads of state is the biggest highlight of the country's diplomacy this year.

"The leaders help to set a basic tone for major issues in bilateral relations and lay a foundation for charting development through their meetings," he said.

Su added that China also plays an important role in pushing forward global governance through multilateral diplomacy, and helps solve hot spot issues through mediation efforts.

"China's diplomacy in 2018 has made remarkable achievements despite rising challenges," he said.

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Huawei CFO gets bail, faces threat of US extradition

Canadian court releases Meng on C\$10 million bond while Washington has 60 days to build a case

By CUI JIA in Beijing and
WILLIAM HENNELLY in New York

Meng Wanzhou, Huawei's chief financial officer, has been released on bail in Canada, but her extradition to the United States for allegedly breaking US sanctions on Iran remains a possibility.

"The development of the case is very likely to be influenced by political pressure, and the arrest and possible trial may raise China-US tensions

Comment
Huawei case
planned to
pressure China,
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in trade negotiations," said Huang Feng, an international criminal law professor at Beijing Normal University and an expert on extradition law, on Dec 12.

Meng, 46, the daughter of Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, was detained on Dec 1 at Vancouver International Airport following an arrest warrant issued by the US government concerning fraud allegations.

A Canadian prosecutor argued on Dec 7 during Meng's bail hearing that she committed fraud in 2013 by telling financial institutions that Huawei Technologies Co Ltd had no connection to Skycom, a company that was reportedly selling US goods to Iran in violation of US sanctions. Meng's lawyers denied the charges,



Meng Wanzhou, Huawei's chief financial officer, walks out of the High Court of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, on Dec 11. AFP

saying Huawei sold Skycom in 2009, according to *The Washington Post*.

Justice William Ehrcke, at a court hearing in Vancouver on Dec 11, granted bail to Meng, subject to a guarantee of C\$10 million (\$7.5 million) and other conditions.

"I'm satisfied that on the particular facts of this case, including the fact that Ms Meng is a well-educated businesswoman who has no criminal record and of whom several people have attested to her good character, the risk of her nonattendance in court can be reduced to an accept-

able level," Ehrcke said.

Meng, who owns two homes in Vancouver, will be subject to surveillance at one of them and must surrender her Chinese and Hong Kong passports to authorities. The judge also ordered Meng, a mother of four, not to approach the regional airport, to wear a GPS tracker, pay for security surveillance and agree to unannounced police visits.

On Dec 12, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang expressed disapproval of Meng's detention. "We've clearly stated our position on this

issue to the Canadian and US governments, asking them to correct the mistake immediately and release Meng," Lu said at a regular news briefing in Beijing.

When asked whether China welcomed US President Donald Trump's possible intervention in the case, Lu said that anyone from the US side, especially leaders and high-level government officials, willing to make positive efforts to resolve the issue, is of course welcome.

Reuters reported on Dec 11 that Trump said he would intervene with the US Justice Department in the case against Meng if it would help secure a trade deal with Beijing.

"If I think it's good for the country, if I think it's good for what will be certainly the largest trade deal ever made — which is a very important thing — what's good for national security, I would certainly intervene if I thought it was necessary," Trump was quoted as saying.

On the afternoon of Dec 12, Huawei released a screenshot of Meng's latest entry on her WeChat account. "I'm in Vancouver and back with my family. I'm proud of Huawei and my country!" the entry read. She also posted a Huawei advertisement featuring a quote from French writer Romain Rolland: "Suffering is behind great things."

Huawei also issued a statement on Dec 12, saying the company has "every confidence" that the Canadian and US legal systems will reach a just conclusion in the proceedings. The company added that it complies with all applicable laws and regulations in the countries it operates in, including export control and sanction laws of the United Nations, the US and the European Union.

The US has 60 days from the arrest date to turn over its full extradition case with supporting evidence.

Huang from Beijing Normal University said the US government will take full advantage of the 60 days and try to extract evidence from Meng's personal belongings obtained during her arrest to build its case, which is "pretty shaky at the moment, based on the information on the arrest warrant".

Based in Shenzhen, South China's Guangdong province, Huawei is the world's largest supplier of telecommunications network equipment and second-biggest maker of smartphones, with revenue of about \$92 billion last year.

Ma Si and Mo Jingxi contributed to this story.

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