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Vietnamese, Chinese Politburo members discuss bilateral ties

Text of report by Huang Haimin and Liu Dongkai entitled: "Jia Qinglin holds talks with Vietnamese Communist Party Politburo member and permanent member of the Secretariat Phan Dien", carried by official Chinese news agency Xinhua (New China News Agency)

Hanoi, 20 March: Jia Qinglin, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party [CCP] and chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference [CPPCC], held talks with Phan Dien, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] and permanent member of the Secretariat of the CPV Central Committee, in Hanoi on 20 March. The two sides exchanged in depth views on CCP-CPV and China-Vietnam relations and issues of common concern.

Jia spoke positively of CCP-CPV and China-Vietnam relations. He said: Under the guidance of our four-phrase [16 characters in Chinese] principle of "long-term stability, catering to the future, good-neighbourliness and friendship, and cooperation in all areas," relations between the CCP and CPV and between China and Vietnam have seen considerable progress. Last year, Hu Jintao, general secretary of the CCP Central Committee and president of China, reached a broad consensus with Vietnam's party and state leaders on deepening CCP-CPV and China-Vietnam relations, which served to clearly point out the direction for the development of China-Vietnam good-neighbourly and friendly cooperative relations. At present, China-Vietnam bilateral economic and trade cooperation has yielded notable results - China has become Vietnam's number-one trade partner, and an all-dimensional and multi-area setup for bilateral economic and trade cooperation has initially been formed. Boundary and territory issues left over by history are being resolved step by step, the Gulf of Tonkin [Beibu Gulf] demarcation agreement and the China-Vietnam agreement on fishery cooperation have been successfully implemented, and a consensus on joint exploitation of resources in the South China Sea has been reached. Cooperation between our two countries, in areas such as foreign affairs and security, theoretical discussions between our two parties, and exchanges between our young people, has continued to deepen. Trusting each other, lending each other support, strengthening cooperation, and jointly seeking development have become important characteristics of CCP-CPV and China-Vietnam relations at present.

First of all, Phan warmly welcomed Jia and his delegation to Vietnam on behalf of the CPV Central Committee. He said: There has been favourable development in recent years in Vietnam-China relations and cooperation in various areas. Last year, visits between the

heads of state of our two countries were successfully exchanged, and there was new progress in CCP-CPV and Vietnam-China relations. Vietnam is pleased with the favourable momentum for the development of the relations.

Jia said: The CCP and the Chinese government have always placed the development of China-Vietnam relations in a prominent position in tasks related to peripheral diplomacy. To put into effect the consensus reached by the leaders of our two countries and to promote the continuous and in-depth development of CCP-CPV and China-Vietnam relations, we are ready to join forces with Vietnam to continue to exert ourselves in the following areas: First, we will strive to maintain high-level inter-party and inter-country exchanges, further strengthen mutual trust, and unceasingly strengthen the political foundation of China-Vietnam relations. Second, we will strive to deepen our economic and trade cooperation by adhering to the principles of complementarity of advantages and mutually beneficial and win-win relationship. We will actively expand our bilateral trade, properly carry out cooperation projects agreed upon by both sides, push forward cooperation in major projects, and strengthen our coordination in international and regional economic affairs. Third, we will have our eyes on the overall situation and our long-term interests, speed up our land boundary demarcation, step up our efforts in prospecting for and exploiting oil and natural gas in the Gulf of Tonkin and in promoting fishery cooperation, and push forward our joint exploitation of the natural resources in the South China Sea, so that substantial results may be achieved at an early date. Fourth, we will strengthen friendly exchanges and cooperation in all areas, strive to innovate the content and form of theoretical discussions between our two parties, and increase exchanges between the young people of our two countries, so as to inject new vitality into the cause of China-Vietnam friendship. Fifth, we will strive to strengthen all-dimensional and multilevel exchanges and cooperation between the CPPCC of China and the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and make due contributions in facilitating the all-round development of China-Vietnam relations.

Phan totally agreed with the suggestions put forward by Jia. He said: Both Vietnam and China are socialist countries and are also friendly neighbours. China has achieved admirable success in its reform and opening up, as well as economic development, Vietnam is also making further efforts to push forward its cause of innovation, opening up, and socialist construction. Strengthening unity and cooperation between Vietnam and China is in keeping with the common interests of their people. The CPV and the Vietnamese government attach great importance to fostering their relations with China, and are willing to join forces with the Chinese side to broaden friendly cooperation in areas such as politics, economics, and trade, to promote the traditional friendship between Vietnam and China, and to push forward the continuous development of CCP-CPV and Vietnam-China relations.

Jia said: The Taiwan issue has to do with the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China. It concerns China's core interests and affects the feelings of all the people of China. We appreciate the CPV's and the Vietnamese government's pursuit of their one-China policy and their opposition to "Taiwan independence" separatist activities in any form.

Phan reiterated that the CPV and the Vietnamese government will continue to firmly adhere to the one-China principle and resolutely oppose "Taiwan independence" activities. He said he hopes that China's great cause of reunification will soon be realized. Phan gave a brief account of Vietnam's latest economic situation and the preparations being made for the 10th CPV National Congress. Jia expressed his wish for a completely successful 10th CPV National Congress, and wished Vietnam further success in its cause of reform, opening up, and socialist construction.

In the evening of the same day, Jia attended a welcoming banquet jointly given by Phan and Pham The Duet, president of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and delivered a speech that was brimming with enthusiasm.

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