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SUMMARY

On September 12, 2023, BEIJING/Chargé [redacted] received a call from Yao Ming, Deputy Director General of the North American and Oceanian Affairs Department of the PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The call was requested by [redacted] as well as the recent announcement of a public inquiry on foreign interference in Canada.

2. **HMCS Ottawa:** [redacted]

[redacted] BEIJING/Chargé/[redacted] recalled that Canada will continue to work with partners and allies to promote peace and security in the Indo-Pacific as well as the rules-based international order. She underscored that Canada has always been transparent about the purpose of our military activities in the Indo-Pacific which aims to monitor the UNSC sanctions on North Korea and which are fully consistent with international law and the UN Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS). BEIJING/Chargé insisted that such transits in the Taiwan Strait are not actions directed against China, do not disturb the peace and security in the Indo-Pacific and are not signals to Taiwan's independence forces as claimed by the PRC. BEIJING/Chargé also reiterated our willingness to engage with high-level officials from the PRC's Ministry of Defense about Canadian military deployments in the Indo-Pacific (making reference to our request to meeting with the PRC's Minister of Defense on the margins of Shangri-La Dialogue).

3. [redacted]

4. **Foreign Interference:** DDG Yao [redacted] the PRC's strong protest following the announcement of a public inquiry on foreign interference in Canada. [redacted] that non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries is a key principle of the PRC's foreign policy and that the PRC has never interfered in the internal affairs of Canada. [redacted]

[redacted] BEIJING/Chargé reinforced that we cannot presume of

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the outcomes of the public inquiry which has broad support from all parties. BEIJING/Chargé also highlighted that the issue has not been "hyped up" by the media.

COMMENTS:

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We will continue to call out such practices by the PRC and reach out to like-minded and other countries to ensure that China's efforts to undermine the rules-based international order are better understood.