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SUMMARY: OGM and Ambassador Cong had a wide-ranging discussion on regional and bilateral issues, which remained constructive in tone despite frank, direct exchanges on areas of disagreement. The meeting generally affirmed a shared openness to incrementally expanding bilateral channels of communication in select forward-looking areas of mutual interest.

[redacted]

[redacted] With respect to commercial relations,

[redacted] OGM

reiterated Canada's request for clemency and transparency with respect to death penalty cases in China on humanitarian grounds.

[redacted]

2. REPORT: On June 30, OGM attended a lunch hosted by Ambassador Cong [xxx] at the Embassy of China. OGM was accompanied by OPD/[redacted] and OPR/[redacted], while Ambassador Cong was accompanied by Chinese [Deputy Ambassador] Zhao Yong and Minister-Counsellor Hu Lihua. The meeting offered OGM an opportunity for an updated exchange of views in a less structured format, and it permitted for OPD/[redacted] to be introduced in her new role to the leadership of the Embassy of China.

3. OGM and Ambassador Cong opened with an open exchange on key dates in Canada and China, Chinese history and recent developments in Xi Jinping Thought. Ambassador Cong conveyed best wishes ahead of Canada Day,

[redacted]

[redacted] OGM took note and shared reflections on the richness and depth of Chinese history, as well as the value of having an understanding of history to effectively interpret the world today.

4. Turning to the bilateral relationship and global issues of mutual interest, OGM and Ambassador Cong exchanged views on select bilateral and regional issues.

5. Bilateral Relations: [redacted]

[redacted] OGM

[redacted] the importance of avoiding repeatedly revisiting old issues, and instead placing a greater bilateral emphasis on high-potential areas for concrete cooperation – current and future – and ensuring rigorous follow up on implementation. He recognized that significant differences in perspective between Canada and China will continue to exist, but must not be permitted to prevent the relationship from advancing. In particular, he indicated that Canada's long-standing commitment to upholding international law and global rules that apply equally to everyone will remain a consistent feature of

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Canadian engagement. [redacted]

[redacted]

5. [redacted] OGM noted that Canada had welcomed the recent visit of Vice Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwen, while Ambassador Cong remarked that Canada's partnership with China in delivering the COP15 Summit in Montreal had been a notable success. [redacted]

[redacted] OGM confirmed Canada's interest in resuming meetings of the Canada-China Agricultural Working Group, and [redacted]

[redacted]

6. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] OGM affirmed that foreign interference is a topic of significant concern in Canada for good reason, and cautioned that Canada is unlikely to simply "take issues off the table" because they are areas of disagreement. [redacted]

[redacted]

7. **Commercial Relations:** [redacted] noted strong opportunities for expanded commercial engagement particularly with respect to food and energy security, noting positively that bilateral trade in goods has continued to grow and that the bilateral trade deficit has been reduced. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] OGM noted that progress on air services, cautioning that the outcome must not generate a persistent and unfair advantage for Chinese carriers. [redacted]

[redacted]

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8. Cross-Straits Relations: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

OGM noted

that Canada is worried about aggressive statements and actions by China appearing to signal an increased sense of urgency around reunification, and urged all involve to avoid precipitous actions and take inspiration from Deng Xiaoping's reflection that "time is everybody's friend". He stressed in particular the need for a sophisticated analysis of Taiwanese politics and public opinion, which is overwhelmingly focused on local issues rather than Taiwanese independence – even for most Democratic Progressive Party.

9. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

10. Consular Issues: OGM reaffirmed Canada's humanitarian appeal for clemency and transparency around the death penalty cases [REDACTED]. He noted in particular the need for more timely information sharing [REDACTED] to enable Canada to effectively [REDACTED].

11. Centre for China Policy Research: OPR/[REDACTED] offered a brief overview of the mandate of the Centre for China Policy Research, noting that it represents an important investment in augmenting China-related capacity and competencies across the Government of Canada. He noted specifically that the creation of a dedicated research unit would enhance Canada's capacity for sophisticated, evidence-based policy related to China – both bilaterally and globally – including with respect to potential new areas for cooperation. OGM noted that there is a concern in Canada that it is becoming more difficult and less attractive to pursue a research career focused on China, in part because increasingly restricted academic access and availability of reliable statistics and research in China. In this context, he noted the particular importance of OPR contributing to fostering the next generation of China-related academic talent in Canada.

12. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

COMMENT: Notwithstanding frank exchanges on a range of topics, including direct messaging from OGM on Canada's policy positioning, the overall atmospherics of lunch were broadly constructive.

[REDACTED]

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[redacted] with a focus on encouraging a structured and predictable planning process and format while managing Chinese expectations regarding Canada's willingness to set aside "difficult issues" [redacted]

DRAFTED: OPR [redacted]

CONSULTED: OPD [redacted]

APPROVED: OGM