The Old Friends of the Chinese People

Kolya
What Chinese netizens said in 2011...

• “The top three endangered species are the panda, the golden monkey and the old friends of the Chinese people.”
Common Diplomatic Expressions

• XXX hurt the feelings of the Chinese people.
  – Chinese: XXX伤害了中国人民的感情。

• XXX is an old friend of the Chinese people.
  – Chinese: XXX是中国人民的老朋友。
Data from People’s Daily (‘46-’06)

• Who hurt the feelings of the Chinese people?
  – Japan: 47 times
    • E.g., Japanese history textbook controversies
  – United States: 23 times
    • E.g., Hainan Island incident
  – NATO: 10 times
    • E.g., Five U.S. guided bombs hit the Chinese embassy in Belgrade.

• When?
  – All cases but one are after 1978.
Data from People’s Daily (‘49-’10)

- Who were the old friends of the Chinese people?

Number of people       Nationalities

Japan  111人          日本
US  55人            美国
UK  24人            英国
France  23人         法国
Germany  18人           德国
Thailand  15人          泰国
Canada  14人           加拿大
India  11人            印度
Bangladesh  10人         孟加拉
Italy  10人            意大利
Data from People’s Daily (‘49-’10)

• How often?

- ‘78: Establishment of diplomatic relations
- ‘85: Chinese economic reform
- ‘90: One year after the Tiananmen protests
- ‘97: Death of Deng
- ‘97: Handover of HK
Top Ten International Friends Voted by Chinese Netizens (‘09)

• Where they are from...

1. Norman Bethune
2. John Rabe
3. Juan Antonio Samaranch
4. Edgar Snow
5. Joseph Needham
6. Israel Epstein
7. Alley Rewi
8. Dwarkanath Kotnis
9. Princess Sirindhorn
10. Morihiko Hiramatsu

Ivan Arkhipov
John Rabe

200,000-250,000

Schindler's List

The Good Man of Nanking

Siemens
Needham Puzzle: Why the Industrial Revolution Did Not Originate in China
Mao Zedong: The army has lost a helping hand, the nation has lost a friend. Let us always bear in mind his internationalist spirit.

Madame Sun Yat-sen: His memory belongs not only to your people and ours, but to the noble roll-call of fighters for the freedom and progress of all mankind. The future will honor him even more than the present, because it was for the future that he struggled.
Norman Bethune
Mao Zedong: Comrade Bethune’s spirit, his utter devotion to others without any thought of self, was shown in his great sense of responsibility in his work and his great warm-heartedness towards all comrades and the people ... We must all learn the spirit of absolute selflessness from him. With this spirit everyone can be very useful to the people. A man’s ability may be great or small, but if he has this spirit, he is already noble-minded and pure, a man of moral integrity and above vulgar interests, a man who is of value to the people.
Thank you!