

## **Remarks in Foreign Press Secretary Press Conference on December 4**

In the light of the November 29 ruling given by the Beijing No. 2 Intermediate People's Court and related media reports, I would like to reiterate the government's position to prevent unnecessary speculation and misunderstanding both in Japan and in China.

1. The diplomatic activities carried out by the officials of the embassy and consulates of Japan in China are legitimate duties as diplomats and consular officers.
2. The lack of transparency in China's so-called "Anti-Spy Law" could have a chilling effect on economic and person-to-person exchanges. We have been urging the Chinese side to ensure transparency in law enforcement and judicial processes, but as such transparency remains insufficient, we will continue to pursue related efforts.
3. It would be unacceptable that the many Chinese individuals, who are friends of Japan and have interactions with officials of the embassy and consulates of Japan, be subject to unjust disadvantages in China due to such interactions, and hinder people-to-people exchanges between Japan and China.
4. We have reiterated this position to the Chinese side and urged them to ensure that incorrect perceptions of Japan do not spread within China.
5. At the Japan-China summit meeting on November 15, Prime Minister Ishiba and President Xi Jinping confirmed that Japan and China continue to share a broad direction of comprehensively promoting a "Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests" and building "constructive and stable Japan-China relations." Japan will continue to make every effort to further strengthen communication at all levels in a wide range of fields between the two countries, reduce issues and concerns, and increase cooperation and coordination.