November 2: The Government allows people in Taiwan to visit their relatives on the Mainland of China.

August: “Inter-Agency Mainland Affairs Committee” is set up under the Executive Yuan to coordinate affairs in relation to the two sides of the Taiwan Straits that involve its ministries and commissions.

Beijing sets up the Taiwan Affairs Office under its State Council, which is also the Taiwan Affairs Office under its Communist Party Central Committee at the same time, though in two different names.

January: The Executive Yuan amalgamates its Hong Kong-Macao Task Force with the Inter-Agency Mainland Affairs Committee to create the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) that takes charge of the conduct of relations between Taiwan and Mainland China as well as the Hong Kong-Macao area.

February: The MAC has the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) set up as the sole private, non-profit organization authorized by the Government for dealing with affairs involving government power in relations between the two sides of the Straits. The SEF starts operation on March 9, 1991.

December 16: The Mainland establishes the Association for Relations across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) to be the counterpart of SEF.
March 23: Delegates of the SEF and ARATS meet in Beijing to start negotiations for “verification of authenticated certificates” and “inquiry and compensation for registered mail across the Taiwan Straits.” The ARATS demands mention of a “one China principle” in the preamble of the two draft agreements. The SEF does not agree. No conclusion is reached.

August 1: President Lee Teng-hui calls the eighth meeting of the National Unification Council, where a resolution regarding the definition of one China is adopted. The resolution reads in part “the two sides of the Taiwan Straits both adhere to the ‘one China principle,’ though its definition differs. ··· The ‘one China’ should be the Republic of China that was established in 1912 and has since existed, with its sovereignty over the whole of China but its power of rule limited to Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu. ··· The objective fact since 1949 is that China has remained split, ruled by two political entities on both sides of the Straits.”

October 28: The SEF and the ARATS hold the second round of negotiations in Hong Kong to discuss documents authentication and registered mail service. The two sides present five proposals each but no conclusion is reached. On October 30, the SEF, authorized by the Government, presents another three proposals, which are received by the ARATS delegation leaving Hong Kong for the Mainland on November 1.

November 3: The ARATS has the Xinhua News Agency release a statement that it accepts one of the three proposals presented by the SEF which requires “one China” to be orally defined. The ARATS recommends that the concrete contents of the definition be negotiated. On receipt of the statement, the SEF, authorized by the Government,
issues a press release to the effect that the SEF secures consent of the government authorities concerned to orally and independently define one China in the “one China” principle, and so informs the ARATS in writing at the same time. On the same day, the ARATS, through a telephone call by its Vice Secretary-General Sun Yafu to SEF Secretary-General Chen Rong-jye, expresses that the ARATS respects and accepts the SEF-proposed principle of orally and independently defining one China.

* November 16: The ARATS sends a formal reply in writing to inform the SEF that the ARATS “fully respects and accepts the recommendation of Your Esteemed Foundation.” The ARATS presented in 72 characters the contents of its definition of one China to be orally and independently defined, and cites the SEF’s 83-character equivalent in an attachment enclosed in the November 16 reply.

* November 30: The ARATS sends a letter to the SEF suggesting that both sides make joint efforts to hold their leaders’ meeting.

* December 3: The SEF sends a reply to the ARATS to welcome the ARATS proposal.

* April 27-29: C.F. Koo, SEF Chairman, meets Wang Daohan, ARATS President, in Singapore. Four agreements are signed at the Koo-Wang meeting.

* April: Out of goodwill and in view of relations between the two sides of the Straits after a change of government, Su Chi, MAC Chairman, names the agreement reached in November of the previous year the “Consensus of 1992,” which has since been quoted by all.
* April 29: Lien Chan, Chairman of the Kuomintang, and Hu Jintao, General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, issue a joint proclamation of five visions, the first of which calls for “a resumption of consultation and negotiation between the two sides on the basis of the Consensus of 1992 at an earliest possible date to discuss problems of mutual concern as well as those of unilateral concern on an equal footing for the healthy development of relations between the two sides of the Straits.”

* March 22, 2008: Dr. Ma Ying-jeou is elected President of the Republic of China. The Kuomintang comes back to power again.

* March 26: The Xinhua News Agency reports a hotline conversation between Hu Jintao, General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, and President George W. Bush of the United States in which “He (Hu) said it is China’s consistent stand that the Chinese Mainland and Taiwan should restore consultation and talks on the basis of ‘the 1992 Consensus,’ which sees both sides recognize there is only one China, but agree to differ on its definition.”

* May 20: President Ma Ying-jeou points out in his inaugural speech: “We will resume consultation on the basis of the Consensus of 1992 at an earliest possible date, and search for a point of balance in mutual benefits by adhering to the principle of ‘facing the reality, ushering in a new future, shelving the dispute, and creating a win-win situation’ that was proposed at the Boao Forum on April 12.”

* May 26: The SEF holds the second extraordinary meeting of its sixth Board of Directors to elect Messrs. P. K. Chiang and Kao Koong-lian Chairman and Vice Chairman (Secretary-General concurrently),
respectively. The SEF sends a letter to the ARATS on the same day requesting a resumption of consultation and negotiation on the basis of the Consensus of 1992 at an earliest possible date.

* May 28: After President Ma Ying-jeou’s inauguration on May 20, Wu Po-hsiung, Chairman of the Kuomintang, visits the Mainland, where he meets Hu Jintao, General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party. At their meeting, Mr. Wu says: the Taiwan side “hopes that the two sides of the Straits will shelve the dispute in accordance with the Consensus of 1992 to resume at an earliest possible date the cross-Straits consultation and negotiation suspended for many years in pursuit of a win-win result.” Mr. Hu says, “We should resume consultation and negotiation between the SEF and the ARATS on the basis of the Consensus of 1992 as soon as practicable in order to pragmatically resolve relevant problems through negotiation.”

* May 29: The ARATS expresses in a letter in reply to the SEF letter dated May 28, 2008 its agreement on the resumption of consultation and negotiation on the basis of the 1992 Consensus at an earliest possible date, and invites Mr. Chiang to lead an SEF delegation to Beijing for a meeting from June 11 through 14 to negotiate for chartered flights across the Straits on weekends and visits to Taiwan by tourists from the Mainland.
* **October 10:** President Ma Ying-jeou makes remarks on Double Tenth National Day, pointing out: “Over the past year, the two sides of the Straits signed, on the pragmatic basis of the Consensus of 1992, nine agreements to continually expand the scope of cooperation from visits of Mainland tourists to the direct flight, shipping and postal services and from food safety to judicial mutual assistance as well as to continue to build goodwill and mutual trust.”

* **October 17:** The Kuomintang holds its 18th National Congress where President Ma Ying-jeou is inaugurated as its chairman. He points out in an inaugural address that nine agreements were signed with the Mainland on the basis of the Consensus of 1992 and in line with the principle of “Taiwan first and for the interests of the people” to promote the wellbeing of the people of Taiwan, mitigate the confrontation with the Mainland, and safeguard the nation’s sovereignty and Taiwan’s dignity.

* **January 1:** President Ma Ying-jeou points out in his New Year’s Day remarks: “I have always insisted that the status quo of ‘no unification, no independence, and no use of force’ be maintained between the two sides of the Straits within the framework of the Constitution of the Republic of China and that interchange and cooperation across the Straits be promoted on the basis of the Consensus of 1992.”

* **August 11:** Mr. Li Yafei, ARATS Executive Vice President-Secretary-General, says at the Cross-Straits Peace and Wealth Forum in Taipei the agreement reached in 1992 between the SEF and the ARATS on defining orally and independently the consensus on one China both sides of the Straits adhere to is the “Consensus of 1992.”
October 10: President Ma Ying-jeou points out in his Double Tenth National Day remarks that relations across the Straits are being developed within the framework of the Constitution of the Republic of China and on the basis of the Consensus of 1992, while at the present stage of development of these relations, it is legally impossible to “mutually recognize” but efforts should be made in line with the spirit of pragmatism to make possible “mutual non-denial” in actuality.

January 1: President Ma Ying-jeou points out in his New Year’s Day remarks: “We have, over the past two years and more, maintained the status quo of ‘no unification, no independence, and no use of force’ in relations between the two sides of the Straits within the framework of the Constitution of the Republic of China and resumed negotiations with the Mainland on the basis of the ‘Consensus of 1992 /One China with Different Interpretations’.”

August 28: President Ma Ying-jeou, in response to Ms. Tsai Ing-wen’s remarks that there is no Consensus of 1992, holds a press conference where he points out: “The connotation of the ‘Consensus of 1992’ is really simple and clear. It is ‘one China with different interpretations.’ This is a consensus between the two sides of the Straits. For us that one China is the Republic of China, because before the SEF and the ARATS met for consultation, the National Unification Council had held an extraordinary meeting to confirm that the so-called one China is the Republic of China in existence since 1912. This is very clear.”

October 10: President Ma Ying-jeou points out in his Double Tenth National Day remarks: “The Government has developed relations across the Straits within the framework of the Constitution of the
Republic of China and on the basis of the ‘Consensus of 1992/One China with Different Interpretations’ to maintain the status quo of ‘no unification, no independence, and no use of force’ between the two sides of the Straits. It has greatly eased tensions across the Taiwan Straits and won affirmation and support of the world community.

* December 16: Jia Qinglin, Beijing’s the National People’s Political Consultative Council chairman emphasizes in a speech delivered at ceremonies marking the 20th anniversary of the founding of the ARATS: “In 1992, the ARATS and the SEF of Taiwan, authorized respectively by the two sides of the Taiwan Straits, reached a consensus for orally and independently defining the one China principle to which both sides adhere. This is what people call the ‘Consensus of 1992’ today. This Consensus has laid the political foundation for consultation and negotiation between the two sides of the Straits, and made the Wang Daohan-C. F. Koo meeting of 1993 possible. That meeting is the historical first step taken to develop relations across the Straits.”

* May 20: President Ma Ying-jeou points out in an address on inauguration of a second term that the Constitution of the Republic of China is the national doctrine and the highest guidelines for the conduct of relations between the two sides of the Straits. Cross-Straits policy is to maintain the status quo of “no unification, no independence, and no use of force” between the two sides within the framework of the Constitution and promote the peaceful development of relations across the Straits on the basis of the Consensus of 1992.

* October 10: President Ma Ying-jeou points out in his Double Tenth National Day remarks: “In the future, we shall continue to expand interchange across the Straits on the basis of the ‘Consensus of 1992/One China with Different Interpretations.’ We shall make an
overall review and amend the ‘Statute Governing the Relations of the People on the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area,’ and initiate an establishment of offices on each other’s sides of the Straits at an earliest possible date to serve businesses, enterprises, students and people on both sides.”

* November 8: Hu Jintao, General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, points out in a political report at opening ceremonies of the National Party Congress: “… (The Party) shall adhere to the common stance (of the two sides of the Straits) on the ‘Consensus of 1992’ to promote and safeguard the common acknowledgement of the one China framework and to seek the common grounds but leave the differences. … (The Party) shall seek to make fair and reasonable arrangements in political relations across the Straits in the special situation before the country has yet to be reunified.”

* November 9: President Ma Ying-jeou explains in detail how the ‘Consensus of 1992’ has been arrived at and how it has come to be called the ‘Consensus of 1992’ in a keynote speech at the “Symposium on the 20 Years of the Consensus of 1992” sponsored by the SEF. He points out the “Consensus of 1992” embodies the spirit of “facing the reality and shelving the dispute” within the framework of the Constitution of the Republic of China and gives a concrete form to the stance on pragmatic resolution of problems. He emphasizes the “Consensus of 1992” is a historical fact, not a political symbol.

* November 15: Chairman Ma Ying-jeou of the Kuomintang points out in his felicitation cabled to Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, on the occasion of the latter’s election that the unprecedented peace and stability in sixty years have been secured, thanks to the adherence by our two Parties to the “Consensus of 1992” and our joint efforts.