

... the development of farm-related industries should be stepped up, concentrating on construction and renovation of a number of chemical fertilizer plants and expanding the supply of farming plastic sheeting, pesticides and machinery.

Despite the rhetoric, both the economic and environmental objectives are clearly ambitious.

#### 5.4 Overview of Environmental Concerns

A vast land, a large population, varied climatic conditions, and uneven economic development characterize China. Hence, the country's environmental problems are complex and varied: water pollution, atmospheric contamination, solid waste disposal problems, noise pollution, excessive deforestation, grasslands degradation, soil erosion, and habitat destruction. The problems are commonly interrelated and always complex.<sup>46</sup>

It is widely recognized that China faces severe environmental degradation problems. It is beyond the scope of this Paper to attempt to address the full range of environmental problems and challenges facing China.<sup>47</sup> The aim of this section is limited to sketching out briefly the nature of the most significant environmental pressures that could contribute to a violent conflict response in the Chinese population. While interrelated, these environmental pressures have been categorized into pollution oriented or ecologically oriented.

Pollution is a major and widespread environmental threat in China. Advancing

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<sup>46</sup>Qu Geping and Li Jinchang, translated by Jiang Baozhong and Gu Ran, Population and the Environment in China, 1994, p.34.

<sup>47</sup>For a more comprehensive overview of the state of China's environment, interested readers may find the following books helpful: Vaclav Smil, China's Environmental Crisis: An Inquiry into the Limits of National Development, Armonk: M.E. Sharpe, 1993; World Resources Institute, World Resources, 1994-95: A Guide to the Global Environment, New York, N.Y.: Oxford University Press, Chapter 4; Lester R. Brown et al., State of the World, New York: W.W. Norton, 1995, Chapter 7; Qu Geping and Li Jinchang, Population and the Environment in China, Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1994; Editorial Board, China Conservation Strategy, Beijing: China Environmental Science Press, 1990; Qu Geping, Environmental Management in China, Beijing: China Environmental Press, 1991; and World Bank, "China Environmental Strategy Paper," Report No. 9669-CHA, 1992.