

# OPRF MARINT Monthly Report

## June 2008



### CONTENTS

#### Major Events in June 2008

##### 1. Information Digest

- 1.1 Security
- 1.2 Military
- 1.3 Diplomacy and International Relations
- 1.4 Shipping, Resources, Environment and Miscellaneous

##### 2. Intelligence Assessment

- 2.1 UN Security Council adopts resolution: Foreign vessels authorized to take all necessary measures to tackle Somali piracy
- 2.2 Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou's National Security Policy and Prospect of Taiwan Strait

This monthly report is edited/ summarized by publisher and staff writers based on published news resources.

Each resource is referenced with bracket below each title and is displayed as link URL on the last page of this report.

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## Major Events in June 2008

**Security:** On June 2, the United Nations (UN) Security Council adopted unanimously a resolution 1816 authorizing the foreign vessels to take “all necessary means” to combat Somali piracy at sea. As to this issue, we have discussed more in detail in 2.1. Intelligence Assessment in this monthly report.

On June 12, the United Nations' World Food Program (WFP) said it is placed in the situation of eventually terminating its aid shipments to Somalia if it is impossible to find other naval powers that will take over from the Royal Netherlands Navy (RNN).

On June 23, a yacht with Europeans on board was hijacked. Pirates took a German family (man and wife with their son) and four French men in yacht hostages, keeping them in custody. The pirates are seeking a ransom of one million US dollars (USD). The Puntland's government prohibits ransom payments.

On June 25, Eyle district commissioner said pirates, who hijacked a Dutch ship, MV *Amiya Scan*, on May 25, released the ship and its crew after the ship owner paid them a ransom of 1.25 million USD.

**Military:** On June 3, Russia's Sevmash shipyard, currently retrofitting aircraft carrier *Admiral Gorshkov* (named INS *Vikramaditya* in Indian Navy), said the warship would be ready for transfer to the Indian Navy in 2012 if the price escalation issue be resolved.

On June 10, Lt. Gen. Vladimir Shamanov, who heads the Russian Defense Ministry's combat training directorate, said Russia's Defense Ministry is planning the summer training program running from June 1 to December 1. The program envisions the increased presence of the Russian Navy, not only in the Atlantic, but also in the Arctic and the Pacific. General said they are also planning to increase the operational radius of submarines deployed with the Northern Fleet.

The USS *Kitty Hawk* and USS *George Washington* turnover originally planned for early June in Pearl Harbor will now take place in San Diego in August as a result of the fire that occurred aboard *George Washington*. After turnover, *Kitty Hawk* will then proceed to Bremerton, Wash., to complete her decommissioning on schedule. The USS *Kitty Hawk* arrived on July 1 at Pearl Harbor to participate in the Rim of the Pacific, or Rimpac, naval exercises.

Recently, a researcher contributed to the Rajaratnam School Of International Studies (RSIS) Commentaries dated June 23 a thesis with a title of “Making a Comeback?: Aircraft Carriers in the Asia-Pacific.” The author says major nations in Asia are putting an emphasis on building the aircraft carriers and the landing ships with power projection capabilities.

On June 24, a Japanese navy destroyer *Sazanami* sailed into the southern navy port of Zhanjiang, headquarters of the South China Sea Fleet for the first time since the end of the war. It follows the last port call made by the Chinese missile destroyer *Shenzhen* to Tokyo in November 2007. The *Sazanami* stayed in Guangdong province until June 28.

**Diplomacy and International Relations:** According to a joint statement issued on June 1, China and Vietnam agreed to start a joint survey in the maritime zones in order to implement border demarcation in the waters outside the mouth of Beibu Bay (The Gulf of Tongking). China and Vietnam sealed agreements on the demarcation of maritime zones between the two countries in the Beibu Bay in 2004.

On May 23, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled on the belonging of the three rocks including Petro Branca, over which Malaysia and Singapore had been in dispute for sovereignty. Policies of two nations thereafter have been summarized in this report.

On June 5, Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd called on Asia-Pacific countries to form an Asia-Pacific Community- a European Union-style group by 2020 to enhance regional security and prosperity. The arrangement could be a potential economic powerhouse including China, India, the United States and Japan, and could help to resolve the numerous security problems within the region, such as the Straits of Taiwan, the Korean Peninsula and Kashmir.

Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou, who was inaugurated on 20 May, is making a policy of dialogue with China. Cross-strait relations have entered an age of searching for cooperation with reconstruction of the framework of dialogue under the Ma's administration. Ma's policy toward China and his national security policy are discussed in 2.2 Intelligence Assessment in this monthly report.

**Shipping, Resources, Environment and Miscellaneous:** AP dated June 7 reports an on-the-spot article of a journalist, Christopher Bodeen, on current status of the Hambantota port in Sri Lanka. The port is being built with Chinese assistance.

On June 8, Professor Luan Weixin at Dalian Maritime University said China's marine economy has been developing at a staggeringly rapid pace and marine resources are being widely tapped.

On June 9, Sergei Kiriyyenko, the head of the state nuclear corporation Rosatom, said the first nuclear icebreaker of a new generation will be built by 2015.

The Vietnam News dated June 12 reported 70 percent of freight transport to and from the Cuu Long (Mekong) Delta is being forced to re-route through Ho Chi Minh City because of silt problems at the mouth of the Hau River in Mekong Delata.

The Australian daily newspaper, *The Australian* dated June 23 reports that the first global study into the effectiveness of mandatory Ship Security Alert Systems (SSAS) installed on merchant ships in the wake of the September 11, 2001, US terror attacks, has concluded that they are a complete waste of resources.

On June 24, China National Offshore Oil Company Limited (CNOOC) announced that a new oil field in the South China Sea had started production with a current daily output reaching 31,000 barrels.

# 1. Information Digest

## 1.1 Security

### June 3 “Russian Navy ready to head for Somalia” (RIA Novosti, June 3, 2008)

If the country's leadership decides to send Russian naval vessels to the Somali coast, the navy will of course carry out this decision, Captain 1st Rank Igor Dygalo, an aide to the Russian Navy commander, said on June 3. However, he added that the use of force in this case would be an extreme measure. The cargo vessel of the Dutch shipping company, the *Amiya Scan* (2,546 tons), sailing under the flag of Antigua and Barbuda, was captured by Somali pirates on May 26 with four Russians and five Filipinos on board.

### June 7 “Pirates attempts to attack cargo ship off Mindanao” (couriermail.com.au, June 11, 2008)

According to the Philippines Coast Guard on June 7, an Australian cattle transport ship, MV *Hereford Express* (4,600-ton), was chased and fired by four speedboats off Balut Island on south of Mindanao Island for two hours on the 7th. The merchant vessel was bound for Broome in Western Australia from Mindanao's General Santos City. The vessel did not stop and tried to escape the attack by changing course to the northwest. No one of the crew of 22 Filipinos was injured. According to the Philippines Coast Guard, the attack was the first by pirates in that area and the first such assault on a livestock transport ship. Broome port authority said the MV *Hereford Express* was one of three livestock transport vessels involved in trade between the Philippines and Broome, Wyndham and Darwin in Western Australia.

MV *Hereford Express*

Source: ABC net.au, June 11, 2008

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/11/2270890.htm?site=local>

### June 12 “WFP facing crisis of halting food shipment to Somalia” (monster and critics.com, June 12, 2008)

On June 12, the United Nations' World Food Program (WFP) said it is placed in the situation

of eventually terminating its aid shipments to Somalia. The WEW said they may have to cease the shipments if it is impossible to find other naval powers that will take over from the Royal Netherlands Navy (RNN). The RNN is due to end its tour of escort duty to protect its aid shipments to Somalia on 25 June. A Dutch frigate has ensured no WFP ships have been hijacked by pirates since November 2007. WFP is concerned that shipping companies will be reluctant to send transport ships, if unescorted by the naval vessels, to Somali waters, the most dangerous place in the world threatened by the piracy attacks.

### **June 16 “Malaysia’s Maritime Agency to have own air unit” (The Star, June 16, 2008)**

On June 16, Director-general at the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), Admiral (ADM) Datuk Amdan Kurish, said MMEA is getting its own air unit to monitor illegal activities at sea. According to ADM Datuk, the agency is in the process of acquiring two Bombardier amphibious aircraft from Canada in September or October. One will be stationed in Peninsular Malaysia and the other in Sabah or Sarawak. The MMEA have already acquired three helicopters and is now training pilots and crew to man them.

### **June 16 “German ship hijacked by Somali pirates deadlocked in ransom negotiation” (Shiptalk, June 16, 2008)**

There’s growing concern for a group of fifteen sailors of the German-owned MV *Lehmann Timber* who were taken hostage by pirates on May 28. The crew from Russia, Ukraine, Estonia and Myanmar has been held captive on a ship off the coast of Somalia for 20 days. But the crews are being kept without food and water in terrible conditions on the captured vessel, and the wife of the Russian captain of the ship says that the crew is in danger. According the maritime expert, the negotiations are now at a standstill because the owner of the ship is not willing to meet the pirates' demands of ransom. Maritime expert says the company employed to negotiate the ransom had managed to reduce the price for the men’s release to as low as 250,000 US dollars (USD). But the ship’s owner still refuses to pay it. Generally speaking, the ransom to free a hijacked ship in Somalia is usually around 700,000 USD. Expert added that pressure must be put on the ship’s owners to pay the pirates before the crisis turns into a tragedy. Russia says it prefers to find a peaceful solution, but if the situation gets out of hand, the navy is ready to intervene.

### **June 16 “U.S. Coast Guard begins searching vessels with port calls to Iran” (Shiptalk, June 16, 2008)**

The U.S. Coast Guard has begun searching any shipping vessel that has docked at an Iranian port within five port calls of coming to American shores. The new Department of Homeland Security regulation places Iran on a list with seven other nations singled out by the Coast Guard because of lax antiterrorism controls. Vessels that fall under the regulation will be boarded at sea by the Coast Guard to ensure the vessel took the required actions.

**June 16” French, Chinese navies discussing ways against Somalia piracy” (AFP, June 17, 2008)**

The French navy and its Chinese counterpart are discussing ways to strengthen intelligence exchange to combat piracy off the coast of Africa, where many Chinese fishing boats are operating, Vice Admiral (VADM) Gerard Valin said on 16 June. VADM Valin, who is also commander of French joint forces in the Indian Ocean, arrived in Hong Kong with his fleet on 16th.

**June 17 “Somalia plans to upgrade coastal security capability” (Shiptalk, June 17, 2008)**

The Somalia government is planning to strengthen its own coast guard following the signing of a security agreement with a French private company, Secopex CSA. According to the French media, the Secopex CSA proposed and got the consent of the Somali government to support maritime security in Somalia and create a coastal intelligence unit. The co-operation agreement is effective for a term of ten years. The main aspects of the agreement include; (1) strengthening the Somalia customs and the maritime police through the creation of a coastguard unit to monitor and tax fishing boats operating in the Somali territorial waters; (2) offer boats passing through a security service; (3) create two training centers--one in the South region and the other in the North; and (4) combat piracy along the Somali coast. The deal was signed in Paris in May.

Reports from France say that the agreement is not a binding contract in that it does not oblige the Somali government to pay for Secopex’s services. Rather, the French company would source funding from international donors such as the European Union (EU), International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Secopex’s services are estimated to cost 50 ~ 100 million Euros a year. Secopex is a private military services company founded in 2003 by former servicemen based in Carcassonne, where the third regiment of navy infantry parachutists is based. The company has some 365 experts. The involvement of Secopex in the maritime security affairs off the Somali coast is likely to be a major relief to many shipping and fishing companies that have had to grapple with pirate attack in the zone. Mr Andrew Mwangura, Kenyan Seafarers Assistance Program (SAP) coordinator, said it was laudable. However, he added they need to wait and see, pointing out that a Canadian firm had in the past come with a similar project but it failed.

**June 23 “Somali pirates hijack yacht” (CNN, June 24, 2008)**

Ahmed Yusuf Yasin, vice president of the self-declared Republic of Somaliland, said pirates hijacked a yacht with Europeans on board off the Gulf of Aden on June 23. The pirates then took their hostages -- a man, woman, their child and their yacht's pilot, keeping them in custody.

**【Related Story 1】****“Pirates demand \$1M ransom” (AP, June 26, 2008)**

According to the Puntland Minister of State for security in Somalia, pirates took a German family and four French men hostages, hijacking a yacht on June 23. The pirates are seeking a ransom of one million US dollars. While negotiations for their release is undergoing, the condition of the hostages is unclear. The Puntland's government prohibits ransom payments.

**June 25 “Pirates release Dutch ship” (Garowe Online, June 25, 2008)**

On June 25, Eyl district commissioner said pirates, who hijacked a Dutch ship, MV *Amiya Scan*, on May 25, released the ship and its crew after the ship owner paid them a ransom of 1.25 million US dollars. The pirates received the ransom payment in the ocean not far from Eyl Beach. The commissioner said another merchant ship is still in the hands of pirates along Eyl coast. The German owned ship, MV *Lehmann Timber*, was hijacked on May 28. The Puntland Minister of State of Security deplored the decision to pay pirates ransom. The payment of ransom is believed to encourage pirates to be more daring in their piracy business despite assurances from the international community that pirates will be dealt with harshly.

**【Related Story 2】****“Russia's Foreign Ministry confirms release of sailors” (RIA Novosti, June 26, 2008)**

On June 25, Russia's Foreign Ministry confirmed that the Dutch-owned *Amiya Scan*, along with its four Russian and five Filipino crew members, were safely released.

## **1.2 Military**

**June 3 “Tours for U.S. Troops in South Korea to be extended to 3-Year” (The New York Times, June 4, 2008)**

On June 3, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said that he supported extending the tours of U. S. troops stationed in South Korea to three years and allowing their spouses and children to live with them during their assignments. So far, most of the 28,500 troops were assigned to South Korea on unaccompanied 12-month tours because South Korea is considered a combat zone. Such a change would also reverse decades of Pentagon policy for South Korea, acknowledging that the threat of an attack from the North has declined in the face of an unwavering American deterrent force and the growth of an increasingly capable South Korean military. However, Gates noted that extending tours and allowing families to join soldiers here would require building more housing and consideration of other financial and logistical details, suggesting that such a step was still years away. Only about 10 percent of the forces in South Korea, mostly senior officers, are authorized to have their families with them.



**June 3 “Russian shipyard to deliver aircraft carrier to India by 2012” (Zee News, June 3, 2008)**

On June 3, Russia's Sevmash shipyard, currently retrofitting aircraft carrier *Admiral Gorshkov* (named INS *Vikramaditya* in Indian Navy), said the warship would be ready for transfer to the Indian Navy in 2012 if the price escalation issue be resolved. Announcing its readiness to begin sea trials for the carrier in 2011, the shipyard officials said these could be carried provided all the financial issues are resolved. The successful solution of all the financial issues will enable the shipbuilders to sail the aircraft carrier out into the Barents Sea for trials. In the winter of 2012, the ship is expected to be finally refitted and additional trials will continue until the summer of that year. The aircraft carrier is expected to be transferred to the Indian Navy by the end of 2012. Regarding the additional payment, the Sevmash shipyard is asking for additional 1.2 billion US dollars (USD) besides the original agreed deal of 1.5 billion USD, which also includes the supply of MiG-29K fighter fleet.

**June 9 “USS *Kitty Hawk* to Participate in RIMPAC 2008” (Navy News Stand, June 9, 2008)**

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet announced June 9 the aircraft carrier USS *Kitty Hawk* will replace USS *George Washington* (*GW*) in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2008 Exercise scheduled to take place in the Hawaiian operating area from June 29 through July 31. A fire occurred onboard *GW* on May 22 while the ship was at sea. The *GW* is currently in port at Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego, conducting repairs to spaces and equipment affected by the fire. The timeline for repairs to the ship has not yet been determined. RIMPAC 2008 consists of 10 nations, 35 ships, six submarines, over 150 aircraft and 20,000 Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Soldiers and Coast Guardsmen. Units from Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Singapore, United Kingdom and the U.S. are scheduled to participate.

**June 10 “Russian Navy to expand presence worldwide” (RIA Novosti, June 10, 2008)**

On June 10, Lt. Gen. Vladimir Shamanov, who heads the Russian Defense Ministry's combat training directorate, said Russia's Defense Ministry is planning the summer training program running from June 1 to December 1. The program envisions the increased presence of the Russian Navy, not only in the Atlantic, but also in the Arctic and the Pacific. General said they are also planning to increase the operational radius of submarines deployed with the Northern Fleet. In addition, he said that Russia may shift the focus of its military strategy toward the northern latitudes in order to protect its national interests in the Arctic, especially on its continental shelf, which may contain large deposits of oil and natural gas. “We have a number of highly-professional military units in the Leningrad, Siberian and Far Eastern military districts, which are specifically trained for combat in Arctic regions,” Shamanov said.

**June 11 “Russia starts building new missile frigate for Indian Navy” (RIA Novosti, June 11, 2008)**

On June 11, the Yantar Shipyard began construction of the three Project 11356/*Krivak IV*-class guided missile frigates for the Indian navy. The shipyard is located in Leningrad in Russia. The three vessels are expected to be delivered by 2012. Moscow had previously delivered three *Krivak*-class frigates for New Delhi by the end of 2004. The new frigates will be fitted with the new BrahMos supersonic anti-ship cruise missile instead of the Club-N/3M54TE missile fitted on the previous frigates.

**June 11 “South Korea launches third new-type submarine” (RF Design, June 11, 2008)**

On June 11, South Korean shipbuilder, Hyundai Heavy Industries, launched its third AIP-equipped, 1,800-ton class submarine (*Son Won-II* class) submarine named the *An Jung-geun*. The submarine will enter full service in November 2009 after a series of sea trials.

**June 12 “First French-made submarine for Malaysian Navy completes 1st set of trials” (Defense Talk, June 12, 2008)**

On June 12, French shipbuilder, Direction des Constructions Navales Services (DCNS), announced that the first French-made *Scorpene* submarine for Malaysia completed its first set of sea trials in the deep waters off the Bay of Biscay. The submarine will return to Cherbourg for its final refits ahead of its handover to the Malaysian Navy. The submarine, named KD *Tunku Abdul Rahman*, is scheduled to be delivered in early 2009, with a second *Scorpene* to be delivered a few months later.

**June 19 “U.S. aircraft carrier makes port call in HK” (Xinhua, June 19, 2008)**

On June 19, the U.S. aircraft carrier USS *Ronald Reagan* strike group pulled in Hong Kong (HK) port to get recreation and replenishment. It was the third port call by the USS Ronald Reagan in Hong Kong, following previous port calls in 2006 and 2007, respectively. The carrier departed its home port of San Diego on May 19 on deployment to the 5th and 7th fleet areas of responsibility. Rear Admiral James Wisecup, commander of the United States Carrier Strike Group Seven, declined to disclose how long they would be staying in HK and where the strike group was heading to next.

**June 19 “USS *Kitty Hawk*, USS *George Washington* to hold turnover in San Diego in Aug” (Navy Compass, June 19, 2008)**

The USS *Kitty Hawk* and USS *George Washington* turnover originally planned for early June in Pearl Harbor will now take place in San Diego in August as a result of the fire that occurred aboard *George Washington*. After turnover, *Kitty Hawk* will then proceed to Bremerton, Wash., to complete her decommissioning on schedule. *George Washington's* schedule has not yet been determined. The Chief of Naval Operations has directed a Manual of the Judge Advocate General

investigation headed by the Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet to determine the cause of the fire.

The USS *Kitty Hawk* arrived on July 1 at Pearl Harbor to participate in the Rim of the Pacific, or RIMPAC 2008, naval exercises.

### **June 23 “Taiwan to practice command post drills” (CNN, June 23, 2008)**

On June 23, Taiwan will begin its annual computer-simulated war game, the “Hankuang war game 24” which anticipates a massive invasion by China, despite progress of warming ties between the island and its mainland rival since President Ma Ying-jeou's inauguration. The Hankuang war game will last five days. The exercise scenario involves Taiwan losing its air and naval defenses to Chinese troops one day after the Chinese military invasion, whereby Taiwan will be forced to engage in the land battle. Based on this war game, the extensive military exercises will be conducted in September.

### **June 23 “Aircraft carriers and big landing ships appear in Asia” (RSIS Commentaries, July 23, 2008)**

Recently, a researcher has contributed to the Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) Commentaries dated June 23 a thesis with a title of “Making a Comeback?: Aircraft Carriers in the Asia-Pacific.” The researcher, Richard A Bitzinger, is a Senior Fellow at the RSIS Nanyang Technological University. The author says major nations in Asia are putting an emphasis on building the aircraft carriers and the landing ships with power projection capabilities, and a gist of his article is as follows.

- (1) Currently, only two nations, Thailand and India, in the Asia-Pacific operate carriers with fixed fixed-wing aircraft. India has one 50-year-old ex-British carrier, while Thailand operates the “pocket carrier,” *Chakri Nareubet*. Both vessels operate aging STOVL (short-take/vertical landing) Harrier jump jets.
- (2) This is changing, however. The new aircraft carriers are making a stage appearance in Asia. The Indian Navy (IN) is in the process of acquiring two aircraft carriers. One is the Soviet-built carrier *Admiral Gorshkov* (45,000 tons) India bought in 2004. Under the terms of sale, while Russia is providing the carrier for free, India is paying the Russians 974 million US dollars (USD) to refit and upgrade the vessel to a STOBAR (short take-off but arrested recovery) configuration. This entails replacing the ship's foredeck and adding a “ski-jump” to the bow and arresting wires on the landing deck. Moreover, India will spend additional 700 million USD on the aircraft, including twelve MIG-29K “Fulcrum D” fighter jets, and weapons systems. India is also building its own Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) since 2005. The IAC, designated the INS *Vikrant*, is a 37,500-ton vessel, utilizing a STOBAR arrangement of ski-jump and arresting wires. The IAC will operate either the MIG-29K or India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) currently in development.
- (3) China is also reportedly planning to acquire a full-sized aircraft carrier within the next ten years. Beijing has in recent years acquired three aircraft carriers as scrap from Russia. Of them, the *Varyag* was only 70 percent complete when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1992. In

mid-2005, the *Varyag* was moved to a dry dock at the Dalian shipyards, where it was painted Navy gray and its flight deck repaired. At the same time, rumors have circulated that China may purchase the Su-33 fighter jets, which are flown off Russia's lone remaining carrier, the *Admiral Kuznetsov*. While it is doubtful that the *Varyag* – given its lack of engines, operating systems, wiring, and so on – will become China's first operational aircraft carrier anytime soon, it could be used as a research and training platform for future Chinese carrier design and crews.

- (4) On the other hand, at least three nations – Japan, South Korea, and Australia – are acquiring large open-deck ships, although they are just operating the helicopters. Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) is currently acquiring four *Hyuga*-class "helicopter destroyers." The Republic of Korea Navy has accepted into service a new class of helicopter-carrying amphibious assault ship (LHD), the *Dokto*, while the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) plans to acquire two new 28,000-ton *Canberra*-class amphibious power-projection ships, based on a Spanish LHD design.
- (5) At 13,500 tons and with through-deck design and below-deck hangers, the *Hyuga* in fact already resembles a small aircraft carrier, similar to the Royal Navy's *Invincible*-class. A ski-jump could conceivably be retrofitted to the design, and the MSDF could acquire STOVL combat jets, such as the new F-35B Joint Strike Fighters. The South Korean *Dokto* is larger in length and beam than *Harrier*-type aircraft carriers. It is conceivable that the design could be modified so as to permit the operation of fixed-wing aircraft. Meanwhile, the original Spanish design for the *Canberra* actually included a ski-lift for fixed-wing aircraft, and in fact the RAN expressed its desire to purchase a third *Canberra*-class ship, to be fitted with F-35B STOVL fighter jets.
- (6) Admittedly, it may be awhile before any regional navy can operate large carrier battle groups. There are few military systems more complex than an aircraft carrier. There remain a lot of problems to be solved. Nevertheless, the acquisition of sea-based aerial operations on the part of Asian-Pacific nations mentioned above is significant enough to warrant attention. Particularly, amphibious power-projection ships like helicopter-based LHD-type ships could alter the process of littoral combat in the region. And even a handful of highly capable systems such as the F-35 or the Su-33 could play a decisive role in battle and would be likely to shift regional balances of power, particularly in such places as the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea.

Note: As for full article, refer to URL

<http://www.rsis.edu.sg/publications/Perspective/RSIS0682008.pdf>

### **June 24 "JMSDF destroyer makes first port call in China" (China Daily, June 24, 2008)**

On June 24, a Japanese navy destroyer *Sazanami* sailed into the southern navy port of Zhanjiang, headquarters of the South China Sea Fleet, in the first port call by the Japanese warship to China since the end of World War II. It follows the last port call made by the Chinese missile destroyer *Shenzhen* to Tokyo in November 2007. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu

Jianchao welcomed the vessel port call. He said, "This visit will promote exchanges between the defense departments of the two countries and will help ship the assistance materials to the earthquake-hit area in China. This will also help enhance the friendship and mutual trust between the two countries." The *Sazanami* stayed in Guangdong province until June 28.

### **June 24 "Russian Defense Ministry's official: Russia must be ready for combat in the Arctic" (RIA Novosti, June 24, 2008)**

Russia must be ready to fight wars in the Arctic to protect its national interests in the Arctic region, Lt. Gen. Vladimir Shamanov, who heads the Defense Ministry's combat training directorate, said in an interview with the *Krasnaya Zvezda* (Red Star) newspaper on June 24. The general said, "After several countries contested Russia's rights for the continental shelf in the Arctic, we have immediately started the revision of our combat training programs for military units that may be deployed in the Arctic in case of a potential conflict. Combat training is crucial for the success of any future military operations." He said the Defense Ministry would drastically change its approach to the combat training of highly-professional military units in the Leningrad, Siberian and Far Eastern military districts, which could participate in potential conflicts in the Arctic. According to the general, the Americans recently conducted the Northern Edge 12-day large-scale exercise in Alaska, involving about 5,000 personnel, 120 aircraft and several warships. Shamanov stressed that Russia could not ignore such a show of military force near vital Arctic regions.

### **June 26 "Malaysian Navy completes training for 1st group of submariners" - (Bernama, June 26, 2008)**

According to the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN), 119 officers and enlisted men have completed their submariner training in France. Currently, an additional 143 RMN personnel are training to man the two *Scorpene*-class submarines bought from France in 2002. The first *Scorpene* sub, *KD Tunku Abdul Rahman*, is expected to arrive in July 2009, and will be stationed at the new RMN base at Teluk Sepanggar.

## **1.3 Diplomacy and International Relations**

### **June 1 "China, Vietnam agree on survey in parts outside Beibu Bay (Xinhua, June 2, 2008)**

According to a joint statement issued on June 1, China and Vietnam agreed to start a joint survey in the maritime zones in order to implement border demarcation in the waters outside the mouth of Beibu Bay (The Gulf of Tongking). China and Vietnam sealed agreements on the demarcation of maritime zones between the two countries in the Beibu Bay in 2004. Although China shares common waters with eight neighboring countries, this was the first time in history

the two had ever signed a legal document on their maritime borders.

In the joint statement, the two countries agreed to continue a survey of fishery resources and joint navy patrols in common fishing zones in the Beibu Bay. They also agreed to surveys and exploration of oil and natural gas deposits in agreed zones in the Beibu Bay.

### **June 3-20 “Malaysia & Singapore: Policies after ICJ’ ruling” (various sources)**

On May 23, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled on the belonging of the three rocks including Petro Branca, over which Malaysia and Singapore had been in dispute for sovereignty. The ruling by the ICJ finds that Singapore has sovereignty over Pedra Branca (Malaysian name: Pulau Batu Puteh); that Malaysia has sovereignty over Middle Rocks; and that sovereignty over South Ledge belongs to the State in the territorial waters of which it is located. The following are the movements of the two countries over the ruling. (Regarding the ruling, please refer to the Hot Topic in 1. 3 Diplomacy in the OPRF MARINT Monthly Report, May 2008.)

#### **1. “Malaysia: Proposal on relation to Middle Rocks” (The Star, June 3, 2008)**

According to the Malaysian newspaper, The Star, dated June 3, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim told on the 3rd there is a proposal to join the two rocks of the Middle Rocks which were decided to belong to Malaysia. He said it has to be approved by the Cabinet after studying a feasibility including its influence on environment. The two rocks are about 500 meters (m) to 600 m apart so that Middle Rocks would have more space for Malaysia to carry out activities. Foreign Minister Rais Yatim said with Middle Rocks now formally belonging to Malaysia, there were many possibilities that the Government could do on the outcrop, including setting up a weather observation station and other facilities that could assist fishermen.

#### **2. “Foreign Ministers of Malaysia and Singapore make joint press statement” (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore, HP, June 6, 2008)**

In the Joint Press Statement by Rais Yatim, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia and George Yeo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, dated June 6, they clarified the following points about the results discussed over the implementation of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Judgment at the Joint Technical Committee. The meeting was held on the 3rd in Singapore by the delegations of two countries led by Secretary-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore.

- (1) Both sides reiterated their commitment to honor and abide by the ICJ's Judgment and fully implement its decision.
- (2) Both sides agreed that a technical sub-committee would be set up to oversee the conduct of Joint Survey Works to prepare for eventual talks on maritime issues in and around Pedra Branca, Middle Rocks and South Ledge (hereinafter referred to as these rocks).
- (3) Both sides also agreed that in the event of an incident occurring in the waters in and around these rocks, humanitarian assistance will be provided by either side to the affected vessels as part of our common aim of ensuring the safety and security in and around these waters.

(4) Both sides also agreed that fishermen on both sides would be allowed to continue with their current traditional fishing activities in the waters around these rocks.

### **3. “Malaysia plans to determine status of 100 islands” (Channel NewsAsia, June 9, 2008)**

On May 9, Malaysia’s Foreign Minister Rais Yatim said Kuala Lumpur plans to determine the sovereignty of 100 islands around the country after the International Court of Justice (ICJ) gave it a decision on the islet. The ICJ ruling has triggered fears that more unoccupied islands could be up for grabs by other countries. Rais said, “There are about 100 islands and formations in our country which need to be mapped and have their status determined.” These islands are located in seas off Sabah and Sarawak states on Borneo Island -- which Malaysia shares with Indonesia -- as well as off the coasts of northern Kedah state near Thailand and Johor which lies near Singapore. Rais also told that he had asked for a report to be submitted to Cabinet on the issue and that action should be taken to verify each island as Malaysian property.

### **4. “Malaysia keen to take over running of island lighthouse” (Straits Times, Singapore, June 11, 2008)**

On June 10, Malaysia’s Foreign Minister Rais Yatim Rais said they are keen to take over the management of the lighthouse on Pulau Pisang from Singapore as the island belongs to Malaysia. Rais expressed his intention of discussing the matter with Mr George Yeo, referring to his Singapore counterpart. The lighthouse on Pulau Pisang is managed by Singapore under an agreement in 1885 between the ruler of Johor and the governor of the Straits Settlements. The issue has come under the spotlight following a decision by the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Singapore administers the Horsburgh Lighthouse on Pedra Branca which has come to belong to Singapore. Malaysians, in particular, Johoreans, have blamed the government for neglecting Pedra Branca for more than 100 years, allowing it to fall into the hands of Singapore. The state government is putting pressure on the federal government to develop the island to ensure that its sovereignty over 154-hectare Pulau Pisang, located about eight kilometers off the coast of Johor, is never lost.

Inset shows the 53m-tall lighthouse on Pulau Pisang, currently managed by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore. It is about 1,000m above sea level.

Source: The Star, June 9, 2008

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2008/6/9/nation/21495774&sec=nation>

#### **5. “Malaysia raises state flag on Middle Rocks (The Star, June 16, 2008)**

On June 14, Malaysia’s National Security Council secretary Muhammad Hatta said a team of the Malaysia Mapping and Survey Department conducted a topographical survey between June 4 and 12 to reaffirm its sovereignty over Middle Rocks (MR). This was done by raising its national flag, five markers and a monument after the flag-raising ceremony on the 14th. He explained that fishermen were still prohibited from fishing near MR until the technical committee formed by Malaysia and Singapore sorted out some issues.

#### **6. “Malaysia’s Johor Sultan dissatisfied with ICJ ruling” (Straits Times, Singapore, June 20, 2008)**

On June 19, the Sultan of Johor in Malaysia said he will try to find ways to get sovereignty over Pedra Branca, which the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled last month belongs to Singapore. Malaysians refer to the island as Pulau Batu Puteh. When opening the Johor State Legislative Assembly sitting, Sultan Iskandar said the island belongs to the Johor government, not Singapore.

#### **June 5 “Australian PM calls on EU-style regional group for Asia-Pacific” (Antara News, June 6, 2008)**

Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd called on Asia-Pacific countries to form an Asia-Pacific Community-- a European Union-style group by 2020 to enhance regional security and prosperity. The arrangement could be a potential economic powerhouse including China, India, the United States and Japan, and could help to resolve the numerous security problems within the region, such as the Straits of Taiwan, the Korean Peninsula and Kashmir. Rudd has made engagement with Asia a foreign policy priority since his election in November 2007. According to Rudd,



existing regional groupings such as the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum did not go far enough in advancing economic, political and security issues.

**June 12 “S’pore, Indonesia make progress at maritime boundaries talks” (Channel NewsAsia, June 12, 2008)**

On June 11-12, two countries of Singapore and Indonesia held the fifth round of technical discussions on their maritime boundaries in Singapore. In a joint statement issued on the 12th, both sides said substantive progress was made toward reaching agreement on the boundary between Singapore and Indonesia in the western part of the Singapore Strait. The two sides will meet again to further their work.

**June 12 “Australian think-tank: China increasing political aid to Pacific nations” (The Australian, June 12, 2008)**

According to a report released by an Australian think-tank, Australia's Lowy Institute, on June 12, China has increased significantly its development aid to Pacific nations (PN) in the past two years. The reports had pointed out: (1) While China's aid to PN was 33 million US dollars (USD) in 2005, in 2007 it rose to over 293 million USD, including multi-year loans. (2) Most of the aid was aimed at preventing small states in the region from concluding diplomatic relations with Taiwan or reversing their diplomatic relations from Taipei to Beijing. Moreover, the Lowy report criticized much of the Chinese aid focused on infrastructure projects ill-suited to the region's climate, and included grandiose residences for high-ranking local officials and heads-of-state.

Note: The report is available from the following URL

<http://www.lowyinstitute.org/>

**June 20 “Taiwan’s Presidential Office claims sovereignty over Senkaku Islands” (Office of the President, Republic of China, News Releases, June 20, 2008)**

On June 20, a Taiwanese fishing boat sank in the Japanese territorial waters in the vicinity of the Senkaku Islands (known in Taiwan as Diaoyutais) after it collided with a Japanese Coast Guard (JCG) patrol boat. Although this incident was diplomatically settled, Taiwan has never changed and will never change its position of asserting its sovereignty over the Diaoyutais. In an announcement released on June 10, Office of the President, Republic of China, stated, “The Diaoyutai islands are territory of the Republic of China and the government has never changed and will never change its position on safeguarding its sovereignty over the Diaoyutais (Chinese name for the Senkaku Islands). The government places great importance on the fishing rights of Taiwan fishermen and safety of Taiwan fishing boats. We will ask related government agencies to commence negotiations with Japan on fishing rights issues in order to ensure the interests and livelihood of Taiwan fishermen.”

**June 23 “Australian security ties with India strengthened” (The Australian, June 24, 2008)**

While visiting Australia, Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee signed an extradition treaty and a mutual legal assistance treaty with his Australian counterpart, Stephen Smith, on June 23. As well, the two ministers agreed to improve security relations on issues such as border security, counterterrorism financing, and energy security, and agreed to establish an Australia-India roundtable. However, Australia did not deviate from its long-standing position of not selling uranium to countries, such as India, that have not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

**June 27 “Representative of TECO to Manila asserts claim to island in Spratlys” (The Manila Times, June 28, 2008)**

“Taiwan is sovereign on the island of Taiping,” Donald Lee, the newly appointed representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) to Manila, said anew on June 27. Lee announced that Ma Ying-jeou’s government has no intention of negotiating over or abandoning Taiwan’s sovereignty of Taiping Island. He said the island hosts around 200 of their coast guard personnel. The island is fitted with a 1,150-meter long airstrip, a lighthouse, radio and weather stations, concrete landing jetty, and two water wells. Taiping, also known as Itu Aba Island, is the largest of the islands of the Spratly chain. Taiwan has occupied this island since September 1956.

**1.4 Shipping, Resources, Environment, and Miscellaneous****June 2 “Cochin Shipyard launches 5 Platform Supply Vessels simultaneously” (The Economic Times, June 2, 2008)**

On June 2, Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) in India launched five Platform Supply Vessels (PSVs) simultaneously. It was the first significant achievement for the Indian shipyard. The CSL had already delivered six vessels of this kind, and, additionally, almost 20 vessels are already on order. Five of these PSVs were built for the shipping companies of the United States (US), Norway and Greece. The PSV will act as transport vessels to offshore oil rigs and production platforms as well as pipe-laying barges of the marine oil companies. Moreover, the CSL has also commenced construction of an indigenous Aircraft Carrier for the Indian Navy. Attending the launching ceremony of the PSVs, Vice Admiral S. K. Damle said, although the work for the indigenous Aircraft Carrier is satisfying, it was little late of schedule.

Note: Platform Supply Vessel (photo)

<http://cochinshipyard.com/imagegallery.html>

**June 7 “Current status of Sri Lanka’s Hambantota port” (AP, June 7, 2008)**

AP dated June 7 reports an on-the-spot article of a journalist, Christopher Bodeen, on current status of the Hambantota port in Sri Lanka, an outline of which is as follows.

- (1) China has given massive aid to Indian Ocean nations, signing friendship pacts, building ports in Pakistan and Bangladesh as well as Sri Lanka, and reportedly setting up a listening post on one of Myanmar's islands (Field Comment: Coco Island) near the strategic Strait of Malacca. Among China's latest moves is the building of the Hambantota port in Sri Lanka. The Chinese insist the construction of Hambantota port is a purely commercial move. Although some experts in India see ominous designs behind the project, a strategy of China's “string of pearls,” the port, by all appearances, seems to be a commercial venture.
- (2) Sri Lanka says the new port will be a windfall for its impoverished southern region. With Sri Lanka's proximity to the shipping lane already making it a hub for transshipping containers between Europe and Asia, the new port will boost the country's annual cargo handling capacity from six million containers to some 23 million, said Priyath Wickrama, deputy director of the Sri Lankan Ports Authority. Wickrama said a new facility was needed since the main port in the capital Colombo has no room to expand and Trincomalee port in the Northeast is caught in the middle of Sri Lanka's civil war. Hambantota also will have factories onsite producing cement and fertilizer for export, he said.

**June 8 “China faces severe sea pollution” (Xinhua, June 8, 2008)**

On June 8, Professor Luan Weixin at Dalian Maritime University said, “Over the past 20 years or so, China's marine economy has been developing at a staggeringly rapid pace and marine resources are being widely tapped. As a result, the condition of China's inshore environment is deteriorating and the ocean ecology has been seriously damaged.” Luan told a seminar on marine function zoning held in Tianjin. A total of 145,000 square kilometers of shallow waters along China's vast coast failed to meet quality standards for clean oceanic water, of which 29,000 square kilometers of seawater were seriously polluted. These severely-polluted water areas included East Liaoning, Bohai and Hangzhou bays, and the estuaries of Yellow, Yangtze and Zhujiang rivers, as well as inshore areas of major coastal cities, he said. Content of major pollutants, such as inorganic nitrogen and phosphate, remains high in contaminated seawater. During the past 50 years or so, the inshore ecosystem had seen 50 percent of coastal wetlands disappear in excessive reclamation and 80 percent of coral reefs and mangroves destroyed, Luan said.

China's marine economy had been soaring annually at more than 20 percent since the 1980s and the total output reached 2.5 trillion yuan (359 billion US dollars) in 2007, 266 times more than that of 1979. China's mainland coastline is about 18,000 kilometers long. Under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, China boasts about 350,000 square kilometers of coastal and inland water areas, and the area of China's exclusive economic zone is about three million square kilometers.

**June 9 “Russia to build new icebreaker by 2015” (RIA Novosti, June 9, 2008)**

On June 9, Sergei Kiriyenko, the head of the state nuclear corporation Rosatom, said, “It is important to not only use the existing fleet of icebreakers, but also to build new ships, and the first nuclear icebreaker of a new generation will be built by 2015.” According to Kiriyenko, the Iceberg Design Bureau in St. Petersburg will prepare the design of the icebreaker by 2009. This should be an icebreaker capable of moving in rivers and seas. Responsibility for Russia's nuclear icebreaker fleet will be handed over to RosAtom from the Murmansk Shipping Company on August 27.

**June 9 “Italy's biggest oil & gas company receives OK to develop oil field in Timor Sea” (AP, June 9, 2008)**

According to the press-release dated June 9, Italy's biggest oil and natural gas company, Eni SpA, received approval from East Timor and Australian authorities to develop the Kitan oil field off the coast of East Timor. Eni previously announced the discovery of oil in the Kitan-1 well, which tests indicated a flow rate of 6,100 barrels of oil a day. It said they have also confirmed a potential commercial flow in a second well, Kitan-2. Eni said it will submit its development plan to the Timor Sea Designated Authority within 12 months. Eni is the operator in the development area jointly administered by East Timor and Australia. The site is in the Timor Sea 170 kilometers (105 miles) off the East Timor coast and 500 kilometers (310 miles) off the Australian coast.

Note: As to Eni press-release, refer to HP

[http://www.eni.it/en\\_IT/media/press-releases/](http://www.eni.it/en_IT/media/press-releases/)

**June 12 “Mekong Delta mouth silt clogs river traffic” (Vietnam News, June 12, 2008)**

The Vietnam News dated June 12 reported 70 percent of freight transport to and from the Cuu Long (Mekong) Delta is being forced to re-route through Ho Chi Minh City because of silt problems at the mouth of the Hau River in Mekong Delata. The gist of the report is as follows.

- (1) Harbor Master of the Can Tho Port Department said water in the vicinity of the mouth of the river is only about 2.5 meters deep, which is hampering the passage of vessels of more than 5,000 deadweight tons (DWT).
- (2) According to a detailed plan for Mekong Delta ports till 2010, there should be 15 ports for ships from 1,000 to 23,000 DWT along the Hau River and Dinh An estuary, and 13 docks for ships from 5,000 to 25,000DWT.
- (3) The Government approved a project to create an artificial estuary, the Quan Chanh Bo Canal, to replace the Dinh An estuary. However, it would take eight to 10 years to bring the canal into operation. Director of the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Can Tho branch said, even if the Quan Bo Chanh Canal operates at full capacity, Dinh An should still be the second port in the Mekong Delta. Therefore, overcoming silt accumulation at Dinh An estuary is an urgent task, he added. According to experts, a depth of five meters is needed in the Dinh An estuary for four to five kilometers. Currently, demand for building sand is high. At present four

Japanese experts are studying sand supplies from the estuary. If the supplies were satisfactory, a large amount could be sold and more money for dredging would be available.

### **June 23 “Australian press: Shipping alert system ‘useless’” (The Australian, June 23, 2008)**

The Australian daily newspaper the *Australian* dated June 23 reports that the first global study into the effectiveness of mandatory anti-terror systems installed on merchant ships in the wake of the September 11, 2001, US terror attacks, has concluded that they are a complete waste of resources. Below is the gist of the report.

- (1) All international merchant ships with over 500 gross tons, including 63 operating under the Australian flag, have been required by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) since 2004 to carry Ship Security Alert Systems (SSAS). In the event of terrorist attack or emergency, the IMO advises ship captains to use SSAS rather than the traditional radio mayday calls.
- (2) A comprehensive study by Singapore's Rajaratnam School of International Studies has concluded that the SSAS is entirely ineffective in preventing the terrorist attacks. According to the report, the SSAS was blamed on the requirement to pass the alert between at least three authorities in different parts of the world before action could be taken. The alert issued by the merchant ships is first received by the ship's owner, then passed to the ship's flag state, and finally to the national authorities of the coastal states in the immediate vicinity of the ship. The most common flag states for merchant ships are Panama, Liberia and Bahamas, countries that are poorly equipped to pass on timely emergency information about a possible terrorist incident in Australian waters. A ship security alert will be received by a ship owner or Flag State thousands of miles removed from the scene of the potential security threat, leaving everyone nearby completely unaware of the potential danger.
- (3) About 12,000 foreign ships visit Australia each year and most of these are fitted with the SSAS. A Department of Transport spokesman confirmed that the 63 Australian-flagged ships also carried SSAS as an anti-terror alert mechanism. Australia is a party to the IMO's Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS), under which merchant ships must be equipped with ship security alert systems. The IMO is aware of the study but the IMO's Maritime Security Committee has taken no action to improve the system.
- (4) The study found no examples of terrorist attacks on ships since the SSAS became mandatory, but found that ships had used the system, along with other alert measures, when faced with piracy and armed robbery. There was only one recorded case of a ship using the SSAS as the only means of raising the alarm. In June last year Danish vessel Danica White used the system when attacked by the pirates off the coast of Somalia, but the alert failed to reach Danish authorities and the ship and her crew were captured for 83 days.

### **June 24 “CNOOC starts pumping from new oil field in SCS” (Xinhua, June 24, 2008)**

On June 24, China National Offshore Oil Company Limited (CNOOC) announced that a new oil field in the South China Sea (SCS) had started production with a current daily output reaching

31,000 barrels. The oil field is in the Pearl River estuary basin. Its facilities contain a platform, floating production storage and offloading units (FPSO) and 15 producing wells. Currently, the field pumps from 10 wells. The other wells will begin production in succession. The peak daily production is expected to hit 40,000 barrels. This is the third field, from which CNOOC has commenced production in 2008.

## 2. Intelligence Assessment

### 2.1 UN Security Council adopts resolution: Foreign vessels authorized to take all necessary measures to tackle Somali piracy

On June 2, the United Nations (UN) Security Council adopted unanimously a resolution 1816 authorizing the foreign vessels to take all necessary means to combat a wave of Somali piracy at sea. The resolution was pushed by the countries centering on France and the United States in response to requests from both the Somali transitional government and Secretary General Ban Ki Moon to combat the brutal acts of piracy in the Somali waters. The resolution was co-sponsored by Panama and the United Kingdom.

#### 1. Outline of Resolution 1816

(1) In the Preamble of the resolution:

- a. Gravely concerned by the threat that acts of piracy and armed robbery against vessels (hereinafter referred to as piracy) pose to the prompt, safe and effective delivery of humanitarian aid to Somalia, the safety of commercial maritime routes and to international navigation;
- b. Reaffirming the relevant provisions of international law with respect to the repression of piracy, including United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);
- c. Reaffirming its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia; and
- d. Taking into account the crisis situation in Somalia, and the lack of capacity of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) to interdict piracy or patrol and secure either the international sea lanes off the coast of Somalia or Somalia's territorial waters, among others, the UN Security Council decided that, following the submission of a previous notice from the TFG to the President of the UN Security Council, States co-operating with the TFG would be allowed to take mainly the measures below, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the UN.

(2) Major measures to be taken by the member-States and UN organizations

The Security Council:

- a. Urges States whose naval vessels and military aircraft operate on the high seas and airspace off the coast of Somalia to be vigilant to piracy and, in this context, encourages, in particular, States interested in the use of commercial maritime routes off the coast of Somalia, to increase and coordinate their efforts to deter piracy in cooperation with the TFG;
- b. Urges all States to cooperate with each other, with the IMO and, as appropriate, with the relevant regional organizations in connection with, and share information about, piracy in the

territorial waters and on the high seas off the coast of Somalia, and to render assistance to vessels threatened by or under attack by pirates or armed robbers, in accordance with relevant international law; and

c. Decides that for a period of six months from the date of this resolution, States cooperating with the TFG in the fight against piracy off the coast of Somalia, for which advance notification has been provided by the TFG to the Secretary-General, may:

(a) Enter the territorial waters of Somalia for the purpose of repressing piracy, in a manner consistent with such action permitted on the high seas with respect to piracy under relevant international law; and

(b) Use, within the territorial waters of Somalia, in a manner consistent with action permitted on the high seas with respect to piracy under relevant international law, all necessary means to repress piracy. On this occasion, cooperating states are requested to take appropriate steps to ensure that they do not have the practical effect of denying or impairing the right of innocent passage to the ships of any third State;

Under the terms of resolution 1816, it is affirmed that the authorization provided in this resolution applies only with respect to the situation in Somalia and shall not affect the rights or obligations or responsibilities of member states under international law, including any rights or obligations under the UNCLOS, with respect to any other situation. The resolution also requests States cooperating with the TFG to inform the Security Council within three months of the progress of actions undertaken in the exercise of the authority provided in paragraph (2)-c above. Moreover, it requests the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council within five months of adoption of this resolution on the implementation of this resolution and on the situation with respect to piracy in territorial waters and the high seas off the coast of Somalia.

Note: As for resolution 1816, refer to URL

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/361/77/PDF/N0836177.pdf?OpenElement>

## 2. Comments

The UN Security Council resolution is unique in authorizing naval vessels of the member states to enter Somalia's territorial waters to fight piracy at sea. At present, in the Indian Ocean under the responsibility of Combined Task Force 150 (CTF-50), the Combined Maritime Forces and CTF-50 are conducting maritime interdiction operations to stop and deter the movements of terrorists, weapons and narcotics, and the naval vessels from the US, European nations, and Pakistan are participating in the operations. On June 3, the Russian Navy said it was ready to send ships to the Somali coasts as soon as a decision is made by the leadership.

Regarding the attacks by pirates in this area, Japan is without exception. For instance, a chemical tanker chartered by the Japanese shipping company (Dorval Kaiun K. K.), the Panamanian-flagged ship *Golden Nori*, was hijacked in the vicinity of Socotra archipelago on October 28, 2007. During this time, a guided missile destroyer from the U.S. 5th Fleet, getting an approval of the Somali provisional government, entered the Somalia waters, and sank two speed-boats tied to the tanker. After that, U.S. and German warships monitored the *Golden Nori*,



and the pirates released the tanker and its crew on December 12. In addition, recently, on April 21, a small unidentified boat about 440 kilometers east of the Yemeni city of Aden approached the VLCC *Takayama* (150,000 GT) owned and operated by NYK Line, firing some form of munitions.

On the other hand, the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force is conducting supporting operations of providing fuel and water to the naval vessels of the countries participating in the CTF-150 under the Special Antiterrorism Law . The current resolution 1816 is targeting the areas which are extremely important to our sea-lanes. If piracy incidents to the Japanese vessels continue to occur in future, it seems that Japan cannot avoid the possibility of having to take some countermeasures, to say nothing of a supply mission.

## **2.2 Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou's National Security Policy and Prospect of Taiwan Strait**

The Taiwan Strait has been said as one of the three hottest spots in Asia together with the Korean Peninsula and Kashmir. President Ma Ying-jeou, who took office on May 20, 2008, is implementing a policy of dialogue with China. Taiwan-China (hereinafter referred to as cross-Strait) relations have entered an era of searching for cooperation with reconstruction of a dialogue-framework under Ma's administration. Will the relaxation of tension visit the Taiwan Strait with the birth of Ma's administration? We have made some analyses on the prospects by putting in order information on Ma's foreign policy toward China, security policy and reactions from China and the United States.

### **1. Resumption of dialogue between China and Taiwan**

(1) In his addresses during the election, President Ma Ying-jeou stressed basis policy toward improving relations with China, saying "China and Taiwan should shelve an issue of sovereignty with different views and it would be wise to settle the pending issue on priority basis." Putting priority in economic areas, Ma made clear of two-step policy measures by postponing the issue of sovereignty over "one China." As a step for talks, he proposed five agenda to: (a) resume dialogue with China on the basis of "1992 Consensus"; (b) to call for direct cross-strait air links; (c) seek economic normalization and consultation of peace talks with China; (d) negotiate on the issue of "international existence space" between China and Taiwan; (e) implement peace talks with China.

In his inaugural address on May 20, Ma called for China "to open together a new page in the history of peace and prosperity." He also showed his strong wills toward early resumption of talks and improved relations on the basis of "1992 Consensus" which is "One China, respective interpretations." At the same time, Ma evaluated the understanding on Taiwan issue by Chinese National Chairman (hereinafter referred to as President) Hu Jintao as "each side is more or less close in idea." Based on this view, Ma stressed to build up mutually supplementing relations for "opening future and pursuing a win-win situation."

On the other hand, on the occasion of China-Taiwan dialogue, Ma made clear that he will not respond to talks with China over unification during his tenure of office. Ma has confirmed he will continue to keep a basic policy of the “status quo” based on his “three Nos” approach of “no independence (legal independence), no unification, no war.”

(2) Regarding the peaceful unification, President Hu Jintao stressed “keeping the principle of one China policy, and never giving up the efforts of winning the peaceful unification of the homeland” at China’s 17th Communist Party Congress in October 2007. On April 14, in the meeting with Taiwan’s Vice President Vincent Siew, President Jintao said, “Our confidence of promoting peaceful, cross-strait development is firm. Let’s make efforts together to open the new phase under new situation.” Also, in the meeting between Hu Jintao and Wu Po-hsiung, Chairman of Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT), on May 28, they agreed to: (a) shelve an issue over sovereignty; (b) put the “1992 Consensus” on a basis; and (c) talk from economic cooperation. In addition, in the meeting with Chiang Pin-kung, Chairman of Taiwan’s Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF), on June 13, President Jintao showed recognition that both sides had resumed a dialogue on the basis of “1992 Consensus.” They evaluated that two sides had made a positive result and a good start for the promotion and development of relationship between the two coasts. According to Xinhua News, it is said that President Hu did not directly allude to Taiwan’s participation in international organizations with regard to Taiwan’s “expansion of activity space in the international communities.”

Looking at the process of China-Taiwan relations since the inauguration of Ma’s administration, two sides, at least, may have succeeded in starting a dialogue policy of beginning talks on economic relations, based on “1992 Consensus.”

## **2. Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou’s security policy and reactions from China and US**

(1) During the period of his election campaign, President Ma said about his security policy as follows. (a) Pursuing the cross-Strait peace, regional stability and domestic stability and prosperity, Taiwan will guarantee its security in the four areas of defense, diplomacy, government and economic culture; (b) For this purpose, while strengthening defensive deterrent, Taiwan will establish total defense capabilities, which are solid, highly spirited, capable of breaking blockade, unoccupied, and resilient. (c) When the war is inevitable, Taiwan will gain time to be superior by deploying military forces quickly, winning in the battles, and disturbing combat rhythm of the enemy.

On the other hand, regarding Taiwan’s security policy toward the United States (U.S.) which is essential to the security of Taiwan, Ma has presented his policy as follows. (a) The development of relations with the U.S. is the most important for Taiwan’s security, and Taiwan understands fully that the U.S. is the last fortress for the Taiwan’s security; (b) While committing its own responsibilities, Taiwan expects the U.S. to strengthen relations with Taiwan under the “Taiwan Relations Act” and the “Six Assurances offered to Taipei in 1982”; (c) While strengthening military cooperation with the U.S. in the various areas of the arms

deliveries from the U.S., Taiwan will promote modernization of armed forces and reorientation of defense policy under the cooperation with the U.S.

In the inaugural address, Ma said on the national security policy that, considering these areas, he will make reasonable defense budget, procure necessary defense weapons, and build up solid defense forces.

Regarding the armament of Taiwan's military forces, especially, in keeping the military balance between the two coasts, Ma has shown his policy as follows. Taiwan will (a) emphasize an early delivery of F-16C/D type fighters from the United States; (b) strengthen naval and air force bases, particularly, runways, hangars, port facilities among others in order to bear against the attacks with missiles and fighting aircraft in the initial stage of war; (c) improve weak points in command, control, communications, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems (C4ISR); (d) strengthen joint operational capabilities; (e) install sophisticated anti-air missile defense systems; (f) secure sea-lane; and (g) promote anti-enemy sentiment in the military and civilian population.

According to the Annual "Defense Report 2008" released on May 12, President Ma's administration will increase the defense expenditures in 2008 by three percent in a ratio to the GNP to buy 66 F16C/D fighters, eight conventional submarines, 12 anti-submarine aircraft and Patriot ground to air guided missiles from the U.S..

President Ma has announced his policy of implementing talks with China toward relaxation of tension in both sides of the strait in order of the following sequences; (a) withdrawal missiles targeting Taiwan, (b) implementation of military contacts; (c) talks on establishing cross-strait "mechanism of mutual trust in the military affairs"; and (d) talks on concluding cross-strait "peace agreement" in order to make the Taiwan strait a peaceful and prosperous "non-military zone." However, Ma has clarified his policy that he will not discuss any issues including peace agreement under the situation where military attack by china is likely.

- (2) Regarding such relations with the United States and national security policy designated by Ma, China so far neither evaluates nor denies them, watching Ma's posture seriously. China's future reactions need to be closely watched with attention.
- (3) Well, what are the U.S. reactions? On June 25, James J. Shinn, assistant secretary of defense for Asian and Pacific security affairs, expressed at the House of Representatives his understanding that the relaxation of tension over the relations between China and Taiwan is proceeding after Ma's administration was born. However, on the other hand, Shinn said, "Japan's role is extremely important not to have China make a misjudgment." Shinn stressed his view that the United States and Japan should cooperate to take China further into international communities,

Regarding the weapon sales to Taiwan, U. S. Deputy Secretary John D Negroponte, made a testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on May 15, confirming a policy that the United States would continue its arms sales to Taiwan under Kuomintang administration in order to keep military balance in the Taiwan strait. As to the delivery of F-16 fighters Taiwan

strongly hopes to have, three views are surfacing as follows. The U. S. will: (a) discuss anew after confirming the defense policy of Ma's administration; (b) make a decision after the completion of the Olympics so as not to make the situation complicated before the Beijing Olympics (Bush is to visit); (c) leave the judgment to the next U.S. administration to start in January 2009, considering that China is chairing the six-party talk which is focusing on North Korea's nuclear issue.

### 3. Future prospect

(1) With an inauguration of Ma's administration and resumption of talks, the China-Taiwan relations have been rapidly moving toward improvement. President Ma is showing his policy both at home and abroad that he is making efforts toward cross-Strait stability and economic development under the reconciliation policy toward China. In addition, Ma realized the direct transportation route and acceptance of Chinese tourists in July, which he promised as a platform before the election, showing his negotiation capability to the people. Although some of the opposition parties are anxious about the rapid progress of dialogue in Taiwan, generally they are welcome to the progress of economy and human cooperation. However, if a dangerous signal is lit over the continuation of the long-term China-Taiwan cooperation from the issues, including the sovereignty, President Ma is considered to be blamed by the people and the opposition parties.

On the other hand, President Jintao's administration has involved Taiwan in the framework dialogue centering on economy to deter Taiwan's independence, and showed the international communities realization of a dialogue with Taiwan which the U.S was seeking. Jintao's administration sought strongly to make former Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian maintain "no independence" of Taiwan and "status quo." However, accepting the appearance of President Ma who insists on "status quo" in "three nos", China is regarded to have changed its Taiwan policy into "peaceful unification." It is assessed that, from now on, based on the principle of one China policy, China will make efforts to mitigate a sense of incongruity to "peace unification" by deepening economic relations, erasing out the disbelief of Taiwanese people toward China, taking time to assimilate Taiwan.

(2) Looking from the national security perspective, access of China and Taiwan is expected to mitigate the military risk in the Taiwan strait and it will give a positive influence on the situation in East Asia. Are there any possibilities of realization of national security policy by President Ma and relaxation of tension in the Taiwan Strait?

Looking from China, security policy of President Ma is recognized as "status quo" by seeking development in the economic area in its relation toward China, strengthening relations with the United States in security, and establishing solid defense readiness. Looking from China, this policy seems to be convenient to Taiwan, whose content is inconsistent with China's "peaceful unification." For the past 20 years, China has continued to increase in a ration of double-digit of defense expenditures, and its direct purpose to deter Taiwan's independence and reinforcement of U.S. forces to Taiwan in case of emergency. As for China, so long as there

remains a possibility that some regime that harbors independence to Taiwan is likely to appear, China will never abandon an option of solving Taiwan problem by force. So far, China will never stop a military expansion aiming Taiwan, or total withdrawal missiles aiming at Taiwan. For China, from pursuing of military and technical innovation of the United States and continent-oriented foreign policy, an expansion of China's military force through modernization of military equipment, including C4ISR, would be essential.

Looking from Taiwan, even if it has temporarily recovered the military balance between Taiwan and China by introducing weapons from the U.S., military imbalance will further increase in future, considering a rapid progress of China's economic development. Also, even if the military maintains alert posture against China, through deepening economic communications with China, it is expected that the consciousness of Taiwan's people toward defense and security will be relatively mitigated. If it be so, before implementation of defense readiness aimed by President Ma, it is concerned that the alertness to Chinese military power is likely to be lessened.

- (3) The resumption of China-Taiwan dialogue gave light to a cross-Strait atmosphere. However, in order to reach a relaxation of military tension on the two sides of the strait, it is necessary for two sides to overcome the inevitable premises of erasing out a long-term mutual, political distrust and solving a sovereign issue between China and Taiwan. Based on this, they must solve a difficult issue of relaxing military confrontation posture through canceling rivalry between two sides of the strait as well as reaching an accord of recognition to peaceful unification. Therefore, there is a definite limit to development of cross-Strait relations.

The future development of cross-Strait relations will change in accordance with an approach to "peaceful unification" envisioned by China and Taiwan's reactions to it. Although economy and human communications are regarded to develop smoothly, it is considered that the difficulty of talks will increase and the relations will turn stagnant, as the focus is shifted to a sovereignty issue and cross-strait security problems.

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