

OPRF MARINT Monthly Report

November 2005



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

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Introduction

Piracy-infested off Somalia coast drew a lot of attention in November 2005 due to a spate of piracy attacks. A Seaborn Cruises luxury liner, run by American shipping firm, traveling off the coast was attacked by piracy on November 5. The details of Somalia waters are included in the in the Chapter 3, “Feature: Pirates off Somalia Coast” with an outline of the attack of the Seaborn and the background of the frequent occurrence of piracy in the waters.

Merchant Internation Group(MIG)’s new Piracy Threat Assessment model predicts that there is a possibility of occurring as many as 70 piracy attacks for the next 12 months in Indonesian waters. The waters are assessed as the most dangerous area among 13 key waters in the world, followed by East African waters, particularly Somalia.

The fleet of Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN), comprising of a missile destroyer Shenzhen and a supply ship Weishanhu left the port of Guangzhou on November 8 to sail for India, Pakistan and Thailand to hold joint naval exercise for the first time in foreign waters. The fleet will pass through four straits and enter into the Arabian Sea via the northern Indian Ocean. The total excursion will be almost 10,000 nautical sea miles and the schedule will be over 40 days. The destroyer and warship berthed at Kochi port on November 28 and conducted naval drills with Indian warships.

On November 22, the US announced that it would lift the arms embargo against Indonesia and would allow the sale of weapons and equipment to the country. It appears that the decision reflects Washington’s desire to seek closer ties with Indonesia to advance the fight against terror.

The US President George W. Bush traveled to Japan, South Korea, China and Mongolia this month. The President talked with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in Kyoto and made a speech on Asia’s freedom and democracy. After that, he attended the APEC meeting in South Korea on November 17. Then he flew to China to be set to meet with the country’s leader. The detail of the Sino-US high-level bilateral dialogue is featured in the Chapter 2, “Intelligence Assessment”.

1. Intelligence Bulletin

1.1 Law and order

November 1 "High piracy threat in the Malacca Straits" (Lloyd's List, November 1, 2005)

MIG (Merchant International Group)'s new Piracy Threat Assessment model says there is a possibility of breaking out as many as 70 piracy attacks for the next 12 months in Indonesian waters. The MIG predicted the waters are the most dangerous area among 13 key waters in the world, followed by East African waters, particularly Somalia. It is also assessed that piracy acts will be less than 30 cases in the Malacca Straits. Out of predicted 70 attacks in Indonesian waters, 50 are believed to occur while ships in harbor. Especially, Balikpapan and Jakarta anchor grounds are said to be high-risk areas. MIG also sees the Sulawesi Sea, particularly in waters surrounding the Sulu Archipelago, and the Makassar Strait are the most dangerous waters in Indonesia.

November 1 "Indonesian Navy adheres to the Malacca Strait security agreement" (Asia Pulse/Antara, November 1, 2005)

Indonesian Navy chief of staff Admiral Slamet Soebijanto said his country would adhere to the Kuala Lumpur agreement aimed at maintaining security in the Malacca Straits among the three littoral states (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore). He also stressed, although the US involvement in securing the Malacca Straits will be allowed, the main responsibility of implementation lies in the three littoral states and the involvement of the foreign countries in the region should be limited to assistance. The three littoral states reached an agreement on conducting joint patrols to secure the Malacca Straits in July 2004. At first, Singapore wished the US participation but Indonesia and Malaysia opposed the idea because the US was not a littoral country. Currently Thailand joined the joint operations agreement. Thailand's southern coastal line faces part of the Malacca Straits.

November 4 "The Philippines to beef up patrol activities of northern Indonesia" (INQ7.Net, November 8, 2005)

Rear Adm. George Uy, chief of The Philippine Naval Staff, announced on November 4 at the activation of the naval detachment at the Glan Port, Sarangani (southern tip island of Mindanao) that the Philippines will beef up patrol activities in the archipelagic waters. He said the opening of a naval detachment was also designed to monitor illegal fishermen, pirates and illegal aliens. The Glan detachment is under the command of the naval forces in Eastern Mindanao headquartered in Davao City. Navy boats will patrol the Sarangani Strait, near the most northern province of Indonesia. The naval detachment at the Glan Port will also support the naval coast watch station in Tinaka Point, at Glan. The station was constructed in June 2004, equipped with

a modern radar system and two stand-by generators. Navy personnel govern and the Marines guard it.

November 8 "Pacific nations hold anti-terror exercise in Fiji" (AFP, November 8, 2005)

Australia, New Zealand, 14 island countries, and the French territories of New Caledonia and Polynesia got together at Suva, the capital of Fiji on November 8 and started two-day discussion exercise to test the region's capacity to counter extreme terrorist attacks. The exercise will be aimed at testing whether security systems in the region, law-enforcement, and border guards perform well in the each country. Prime Minister of New Zealand, Helen Clark said although the risk of terrorist attacks in the Pacific region is low, it is important that the region does not become a weak link in the counter-terrorism chain as terrorist groups are capable of finding out and exploiting weaknesses in national defenses.

November 10 "Thailand and Australia sign anti-terrorism deal" (ABC News, November 10, 2005)

At Bangkok on November 10, The national police chiefs of Australia and Thailand signed a pact on boosting cooperation in fighting terrorism, narcotics and trafficking in humans.

November 16 "Malaysia, Australia sign two treaties on fighting crime terrorism" (Japan Today, November 16, 2005)

Malaysia and Australia on November 16 signed two treaties to strengthen measures against terrorism and international crimes. The two treaties, the Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and the Treaty on Extradition will enable officials to conduct cross-border investigation and to handover criminal suspects.

November 22 "Rice signs on international maritime security strategy" (U.S. Department of State, November 22, 2005)

According to a press release by the US State Department on November 22, the US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice signed a document, "International Outreach and Coordination Strategy to Enhance Maritime Security". President George W. Bush had approved the National Strategy for Maritime Security on September 19, 2005 and had directed Rice to coordinate with foreign governments and international organizations for the US maritime security activities, as well as to solicit international support for an intensified global maritime security framework. The document signed by Rice this time includes two strategic objectives: One is a coordinated policy for US maritime security activities with foreign governments, international and regional organizations, and private sectors. The other is strengthening coordination with foreign governments, international and regional organizations, and private sector partners to solicit support for a global maritime security framework.

November 23 "Malaysian Transport Minister calls for necessity of strengthening maritime security" (BERNAMA, November 23, 2005)

Malaysian Transport Minister Datuk Seri Chan Kong Choy said on November 23 at the 24th session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Assembly in London, while there are still a lot to be done to improve maritime safety at the government and industrial levels, his country has given its fullest support and commitment to the IMO current efforts for enhancing safety and environmental ocean protection in the Malacca Straits and will continue to give its best efforts in the future as well.

November 24 "Indonesia and Pakistan sign anti-terror pact" (The Boston Globe, November 24, 2005)

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono visited Pakistan on November 24. He met with his Pakistani counterpart Pervez Musharraf and signed a counterterrorism pact to fight Islamic militant groups. Musharraf told a news conference after the meeting, "We are both victims of terrorism and therefore we need to cooperate to fight this scourge".

November 24 "Singapore Minister urges Southeast Asia to cooperate against terrorism" (Bangkok Post, November 25, 2005)

Singapore's Minister for Defense Teo Chee Hean said on November 24 at the special forces counterterrorism session that Southeast Asian countries must work together closely in the long and demanding fight against terrorism. He stated as follows: (1) The risk of terrorist acts are high and imminent. Southeast Asia is one of the major battle grounds. (2) Security of all the Southeast Asian countries is closely linked each other. It is effective to counter terrorism only by working together. (3) The three littoral states have engaged in coordinated sea patrols and joint maritime air patrols of the Malacca Straits and will soon expect to set up an Information Sharing Centre in Singapore to further enhance the security.

November 26 "Philippine Navy conducts Pagsasama '05 exercise in Mindanao " (PIA, November 26, 2005)

The Philippine Navy and its reserve naval unit Naval Reserve Squadron based in General Santos, Mindanao conducted a week exercise named "Pagsasama '05". The exercise was carried out in Sarangani Bay, a few hours away from northernmost tip of Indonesia, aimed at evaluating their capability in responding to terrorist activities such as sea jacking, piracy and other wrongdoing in the high seas.

November 28 "Thai Prime Minister warns the danger of cell phones used as bomb devices" (The Nation, November 28, 2005)

Thai Deputy Prime Minister Chidchai Vanasatidya warned residents that Thai military is now vigilant about the danger of southern insurgents' using infrared ray technology to detonate bombs from a distance. Currently Thai government manages to curb the use of mobile phones as a tool of

remote detonator by adopting the registration system for all SIM card purchasers, however, officials see in the future the use of infrared ray technology by insurgents will be inevitable. The government asked Thai citizens not to call back to missed calls to their mobile phones if they can't recognize the number because by doing so the mobile phone might act as a detonating device to explode remote bombs.

November 29 "Antiterrorism laws pass Australia's House of Representative" (Sydney Morning Herald, November 29, 2005)

Australia's House of Representatives approved its antiterrorism laws with preventing the opposition party's amendment demands. Deliberation in Senate is expected to start from November 30.

1.2 Military security

November 7 "Indian Navy eyes Pacific Ocean" (The Indian EXPRESS, November 8, 2005)

The Indian navy is expanding its field of activities to the Pacific Ocean. The navy has already maintained cooperative relations with the US and Russia respectively and now is eager to forge military ties with Japan, Chile and even China. A Naval officer said while the navy's medium-term vision is to look East, its long-term vision is to look further East. On November 7, the navy's Chief Admiral Arun Prakash met with Chilean navy's Admiral Rudolfo Codino who was visiting India. At the beginning of 2005, he also had talks with Chinese army's chief General Liang Guanglie and affirmed a Sino-Indian naval cooperation in the South China Sea and beyond. Recently he also visited Japan and agreed to examine the possibility of naval access pact and joint naval exercises between the two countries. The navy currently schedules to hold naval exercises with the US for the first time off the US coast, likely late next year. The navy is also discussing with Russia and China about tri-lateral exercises off the Guangdong coast, which appears to materialize in a few years.

November 8 "Chinese naval fleet sails for India to hold exercises with Indian Navy" (PTI, November 8, 2005)

China's naval fleets, 'Shenzhen' missile destroyer and a 'Weishanhu' depot ship, left the port of Guangzhou on November 8 for India, Pakistan and Thailand to hold joint naval exercise for the first time in foreign waters. The fleet will pass through four straits and enter into the Arabian Sea via the northern Indian Ocean. The total excursion will be almost 10,000 nautical sea miles and over 40 days. 'Shenzhen' missile destroyer has conducted four-time visits to 11 countries so far. To Weishanhu, this will be the first foreign-trip. Three of Indian Naval ships visited port of Shanghai in October 2003 and conducted joint exercises with the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy

(PLAN) vessels.

November 15 "Arms contracts between Russia and India total \$9 billion" (ITAR-TASS, November 15, 2005)

India's Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee announced on November 15 that the total amount of the current traffic in weapons between Russia and India is approximately US\$9 billion. The announcement was made at the fifth meeting of the Russian-Indian Intergovernmental Commission on Military-Technical Cooperation in Moscow. Russia's Defense Ministry stated another US\$10 billion arms contract between the two countries will be signed in the next four years. Russia also agreed to support India building indigenous nuclear-powered submarines and aircraft carriers. India will participate in Russia's joint development of a fifth-generation fighter aircraft.

November 15 "Uzbek allows Russia to use bases" (The Washington Post, November 15, 2005)

Russian and Uzbekistan presidents signed a bilateral treaty that allows both countries to use military bases mutually, on November 15 in Kremlin. This will enable Russia to build its base in Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan had offered its military base to the US until recently. This treaty also includes stipulation if each country is invaded, the other should help the country.

November 15 "French warship arrives in Guangzhou" (Xinhua, November 15, 2005)

A French navy's missile escort vessel *Fs Vendemiaire* arrived in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province on November 15 as a four-day goodwill visit. The vessel was led by Vadm Patrick Giaume, commander of the French Pacific ocean region. To French warships, this is the third time to visit Guangzhou since the *Fs Vendemiaire* conducted the first visit in November 2001.

November 18 "US to deploy nuclear-powered aircraft carrier George Washington to Japan" (Kyodo News, November 20, 2005)

The US navy has chosen the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, *George Washington* to base in Yokosuka, Japan. The *George Washington*, a Nimitz-class carrier coming into commission in 2002 is currently based in Norfolk, Virginia and will replace the *Kitty Hawk* that will be decommissioned in 2008.

November 22 "India to provide naval vessels to Maldives" (Siliconindia, November 22, 2005)

Indian navy's chief Admiral Arun Prakash announced on November 22 that the navy will provide its patrol vessels for Maldives early 2006 as part of measures to strengthen military cooperation with the countries in Indian Ocean region. Early 2005, the navy had provided *INS Tarmugli*, the same model of the *Tillanchang*, to the Seychelles. The 260-tonne vessel loaded with a 30mm gun

is designed for cracking down on smugglers, pirates and terrorists as well as conducting search and rescue activities.

November 22 "US to lift weapons embargo on Jakarta" (International Herald Tribune, November 24, 2005)

The US State Department announced on November 22 it would lift arms embargo against Indonesia and would allow the sale of weapons and equipment. The decision reflects Washington's desire to seek closer ties with Indonesia. The Bush administration takes it as a big step forward fight against terrorism. The US resumed joint military training and educational exchange with Indonesia earlier 2005 and more recently approved sales of nonlethal military equipment. This is the third time the US prompted military ties with the country. In 1991, Clinton administration considerably restricted US-Indonesia military relations due to Jakarta's repression of East Timor that had been seeking for the independence. Furthermore, the administration put tighter sanctions against Indonesia in 1999 for the reason of abusing human rights in East Timor.

November 23 "India and France conduct naval exercise in Gulf of Aden" (WebIndia123, November 23, 2005)

India sent five of its major warships and a submarine for a joint exercise with France in the Gulf of Aden. This is aimed at building capacities to cope with terrorism and interdiction in the high seas. According to Indian navy spokesman, this is the first time the navy would conduct exercises with French navy far away from Indian waters. It is also the first time its aircraft carrier INS Viraat would join the exercises with France. An Indian Army paratrooper's platoon has joined the Indian navy's Marine Commandos "Marcos" for the maneuver with French Special Forces for missions to interdict ships at sea. The exercise, "Varuna" is the seventh in the series of joint maneuvers between India and France and the second this year. From the France side, a guided missile frigate, an anti-submarine corvette, a nuclear submarine, and a shore-based patrol aircraft and Mirage-2000 jets took part in the exercise from its base at Djibouti. The maneuver ended on November 24.

November 23 "Uzbek announces ban on use of its bases" (GLOBE AND MAIL, November 23, 2005)

A NATO official said that the Uzbekistan government has given NATO notice that the country wouldn't be able to use its territory and air area anymore for supporting activities in Afghanistan. Although the official said there's an alternative plan, none of the details have been provided yet.

November 24 "Philippines plans to acquire new fighter jets" (People's Daily Online, November 24, 2005)

Philippine Air Force chief Jose Reyes announced on November 24 that the navy eyes the possibility of acquiring new fighter jets for its military but after its militant group would be quelled. Currently, the Air Force possesses only four or five trainer jet that are operational and it

hopes to purchase some used jets from countries deploying fifth generation fighters like the US.

November 24 "India holds exercise at Car Nicobar" (The Dawn, November 24, 2005)

India carried out its secret exercise at Car Nicobar Island on November 24. A battalion-class combat force joined the exercise. The maneuver also involved warships for transferring 1,000 troops from India. Indian navy officials said the exercise was aimed at testing the operational condition of the Indian military base located on the island.

November 25 "India, China to hold joint naval exercises" (Hindustan Times, November 25, 2005)

China and India held their second joint military exercises in waters off Kochi in Kerala, involving the China's missile destroyer Shenzhen and supply ship Weishanhu. This is the first time Chinese forces joined exercises in the Indian territory. Indian Navy spokesman said although the maneuvers would be at a basic level because both navies still hardly know each other, such drills help improve military relationship. The Chinese warships will enter Indian waters after its one-week exercise with the Pakistani Navy focusing on training for search and rescue operations. The Sino-India naval exercises at Kochi is the latest of such military drills that Indian navy has conducted in 2005 with major countries like the US and France as part of its efforts to consolidate its role and a regional power.

November 28 "Chinese naval ships arrive in Kochi, India" (The Indian EXPRESS, November 28, 2005)

As a symbol of growing military ties between India and China, a Chinese missile destroyer Shenzhen and its supply ship Weishanhu harbored at Kochi port, India on November 28. During their stay at the port, mutual visits by the personnel of the two navies' and training were conducted.

November 29 "Taiwan: compulsory military service to be cut by two months" (Taipei Times, November 29, 2005)

Taiwanese Premier Frank Hsieh made an announcement that the country's compulsory military service will be changed to 16 months from 2007, which will be two months shorter than the current service term. Conscription age will be also lowered to 19 years, which will enable high school graduates to begin their service one year earlier.

November 30 "Singapore, Philippines revive of military exercises" (ABC-CBN News, November 30, 2005)

Singapore and the Philippines have started their negotiations for formulating a Status of Force Agreement to revive opportunities for joint military exercises which had been halted for ten years. Both sides initiated their exercise "Anoa Singa" in 1994 but stopped it in 1996 because there was no agreement concluded between the two counties.

November 30 "US reports China may have capacity to exceed US" (Taipei Times, November 30, 2005)

The US Congressional Research Service issued a "China Naval Modernization: Implications for US Naval Capabilities, Background and Issues for Congress". The report states that China's military might have the capability to thwart the US's attempt to help Taiwan in case of an attack from China. The report also sees it can take two weeks or more for the US to respond to a China's attack on Taiwan. It points out that China might have the ability to deploy military forces that are capable of conquering Taiwan in a short time before the US's intervention, as well as preventing the US naval force from having access to the Taiwan Strait.

A copy of the report is available on the Federation of American Scientists website at: <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL33153.pdf>

November 30 "India successfully test fires Barhmos supersonic cruise missile" (The Dawn, November 30, 2005)

India succeeded in conducting test fire a Barhmos supersonic cruise missile from its test base in Chandipur, India. The missile is capable of targeting 290 km away and loading with a 300 kg conventional warhead.

1.3 Diplomacy, International Relations and Security Cooperation**November 2 "China, Vietnam agree to promote negotiation of land border demarcation" (Xinhua, November 2, 2005)**

On November 2, China and Vietnam agreed on promoting a negotiation of land border demarcation to enable them to sign a new border administration document by 2008. The two countries also agreed to cooperate on oil and gas exploitation across borders in the Beibu Bay and start joint patrols in the region as early as they can. They agreed to have talks on the demarcation of the sea areas as early as possible.

November 12 "India to include China in SAARC as observer" (PTI, November 12, 2005)

Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran said a special session of the Standing Committee of the organization will be convened early 2006 to work out for a "certain modalities" to invite China to SAARC (South Asian Association for regional Cooperation) as an observer. The Foreign Secretary said China and SAARC are expected to sign a Memorandum of Understanding. China has requested to SAARC to include the organization as an observer or a dialogue partner.

November 16 "US President makes a speech in Kyoto, Japan" (The White House, November 16, 2005)

On November 16, The US President George W. Bush made a speech on Asia's freedom and democracy at Kyoto, praising postwar development of freedom and democracy in Japan. The details of his comment: (1) US-Japan relation is an equal partnership based on common values, common interests and common commitment to freedom. Because of freedom, the two democracies have become close allies. Freedom is a basis of deepening ties between Japan and other countries in the region. (2) Japan, a nation of freedom, has contributed to the world's transformation, such as providing aid to Afghanistan and Iraq.

Bush also referred to China's growing openness to freedom, saying "As China reforms its economy, its leaders are finding that once the door to freedom is opened even a crack, it can not be closed. As the people of China grow in prosperity, their demands for political freedom will grow as well. By meeting the legitimate demands of its citizens for freedom and openness, China's leaders can help their country grow into a modern, prosperous, and confident nation." He welcomed China's role to host the six-party talks, and expected its ongoing reform and opening-up policy. As for Taiwan, Bush said that the country is now shifting to a free and democratic society. He stressed the need for Sino-Taiwan dialogue, pointing out that the US's policy toward China – based on three communiques, the Taiwan Relations Act – remains unchanged, and there should not be one-sided changes in the status quo by either side.

A transcription of his speech is available on the White House website at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/11/20051116-6.html>

1.4 Resources and Environment

November 22 "US, China agree to cooperate on detecting illicit shipments of nuclear material" (USINFO.STATE.GOV, November 23, 2005)

The US Department of Energy agency announced that the US and China had agreed on installing special equipment at ports of China to detect smuggling nuclear and radioactive materials on November 22. The effort is part of Megaports Initiative conducted by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to increase the abilities of other maritime countries to detect, deter and curb illegal shipments of nuclear and radioactive materials through shipping.

November 30 "China: oil demand will rise by 6 percent in 2006 " (China Daily, November 30, 2005)

A Chinese think-tank, the Research Centre of China's State Council predicts that Chinese oil demand will rise by six percent in 2006, accordingly transport fuels demand will increase by

about 10 percent. To handle the increase, China will have to fall back on imports by 44 percent out of estimated 6.56 million barrels of crude per day.

2. Intelligence Assessment

2.1 U.S.- China Relations Viewed from the Visits of U.S. President George W. Bush to Northeast Asia

1 Leaving Washington on November 14, President Bush made an eight-day round of visits to Northeast Asian countries. In Kyoto, Japan on the 16th, he addressed the U.S. Asian policy after holding the Japan-U.S. summit; on the 17th in Kyongju, South Korea, held a summit meeting with the President Roh Mu-hyun; attended the APEC Summit on the 18th and 19th in Pusan and had talks with ASEAN leaders; entered Beijing on the 20th and had U.S.-China talks; and made his first visit as U.S. President to Ulan Bator, Mongolia, holding a summit with his Mongolian counterpart.

President Bush, during his 2000 presidential election campaign, called China “a strategic competitor,” thereby rhetorically clearing the path to show a sense of wariness toward Chinese economy and military power and at the same time proclaimed his intention to take a serious view of U.S. policy toward China were he to be elected. However, U.S.-China relations turned somber straight away due to the midair contact between a U.S. EP-3 and a Chinese military aircraft off the coast of Hainan on April 1, 2001, very shortly after he became president. It is assumed from the U.S. attitude that she could not afford to establish a clear policy toward China because of time and energy being detracted toward prioritized “wars on terrorism” such as Afghan War, Iraqi War and their postwar process followed by the 9.11 attack.

Touching upon the U.S.-Chinese relationship at the press conference prior to the round of visits to Northeast Asian countries in November, President Bush used the expression, “We have a complex relationship and it’s a really important relationship.” I would like to zero in on how the U.S. and China perceive each other; what had been discussed during the President’s visits in focusing on the U.S.-China talks; and the present state of the U.S.-China relations that can be seen through the particular summit meeting and series of talks during that period of time.

2 The outlines of the major contents depicted from both the joint press conference and press briefing on the President’s Visit to China by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice after the talks between the President and his Chinese counterparts are as follows.

(1) Of the general U.S.-China relationship, Chinese President Hu Jintao stated that both countries had an agreement on dealing with promotion of the two countries’ constructive cooperative relations strategically and with a long-term vision, while President Bush stated the two countries shared the opportunity and agenda of the 21st century.

(2) President Bush brought up the issue of political and religious freedom by saying that “it is important that social, political and religious freedom grow in China. And we encourage China to

continue making the historic transition to greater freedom.” On the other hand, President Hu said China would continue to set out from Chinese reality and based on the people’s aspiration to establish a “democratic form of government with Chinese characteristics,” thereby continually heightening the level of human rights. He stated that any differences of view would be resolved through dialogue. Of the issues of human rights and democratization, he stressed to the press that it was unavoidable that as history and culture and the state of affairs differ, a difference of view between the U.S. and China was unavoidable. He furthermore said that China’s democratization and human rights condition had improved, and China would promote constructing a distinctive democratic politics starting from the reality of China.

(3) As for the agenda of diplomacy and security, President Hu mentioned that cooperative relations for anti-terrorism measures would be strengthened while President Bush agreed, welcoming the cooperation China in the war against terrorism.

Taking up the North Korean nuclear problem, President Hu stated both countries would make efforts so that the problems will be resolved peacefully at an early stage together with other member countries through the Six-Party Talks. While President Bush highly evaluated China for its role of leadership as the chair nation at the Six-Party Talks, he noted, “The United States expects North Korea to honor its commitment that the fourth round of the Six-Party Talks, held in September, ended with a joint statement in which North Korea committed itself to abandon all nuclear weapons and all existing nuclear programs.” President Bush asked for China to further display its leadership toward implementation of the agreement. Both leaders confirmed intentions to fulfill the joint statement of the Six-Party Talks and the two countries will closely cooperate with each other to materialize at an early stage denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, and agreed upon putting the finishing touches on the procedures for nuclear abandonment.

President Bush mentioned that it will have a positive effect for China to intend rapprochement with neighboring countries for the future of Asia, and urged that China and Japan should promote dialogues to improve relations with each other as precedent to wider cooperative relationship within the Asian region in terms of both economic and security fields. President Hu explained Chinese thoughts over issues such as the history-perception issue with Japan.

Of the question of enhancing Chinese military strength that evokes the concerns of the international community, President Hu affirmed that it is the Chinese intention to have a course of peaceful development. Secretary of State Rice at the press conference in Beijing on the 20th expressed anxiety about the increasing Chinese military power by stating that “we (both in terms of the U.S. military presence and forces) expect that we will be able to keep a balance in this region.”

3 Background of the statements made by both presidents viewed from how the two countries perceive each other

(1) Chinese Internal Political System

In the foreign policy guidelines of the second term of the Bush administration, the President advocates the so-called “world-wide magnification of liberty and democracy.” Thus, taking the opportunity of visits of both Secretary of State Rice in March and Defense Secretary Rumsfeld in October, the United States clearly assumed to call for China’s democratization. Moreover, President Bush, in his address regarding the Asian policy made in Kyoto on the 16th, together with admiring Japan and South Korea as well as Taiwan where liberty and democracy have made progress, urged China a freedom of expression and religion by the implicit expression “China is a country which has yet made only one step toward a liberty,” and made it clear that he continues to call for China’s “political freedom,” pressing China, which had embarked on economic liberalization, on to “political freedom as well” at the 20th U.S.-China Talks. Within the context of the U.S. perceptions on China, the U.S. recognizes that China is a country of one party rule by a communist party with a greatly different value from the United States whose value is based on democracy and liberty; in China, on the one hand individuals’ consciousness for the rights is becoming greater in accordance with reform and liberation policies, but on the other hand democratization is recognized as lagging behind as instanced by the limitation of freedom of religion and speech, and by the oppression of activists for democratization and suppression of human rights; therefore, there exists a need to ask China to further promote democratization and expand freedom against Chinese political and social problems as well as against human rights problems and restrictions on religious activities, and it is observed that the United States clarify that she will bring the rising China over to the international community in line with democratic rule.

In order to respond to the severe U.S. demands, the Chinese government made public a white paper on “Construction of Democratic Political Form with Chinese Characteristics” in October. China’s democracy rests on the people’s democratic principles that the Communist Party guides it. President Hu stated China would never change the one party ruling political system that differs essentially from U.S. democracy, and he indicated his firm decision that democratization should not be compelled by outside pressure. Based on this position, President Hu at the summit talks stressed that China has been practicing democratization rooted in “China’s historical background” by reiterating the term “democracy” saying, with regard to the “democratic politics and protection of human rights” that President Bush demands that “China, based on the laws, exercises the rights to practice democratic election, democratic decision-making process, democratic administration and democratic supervision.” At the same time, stating “the differences between the two countries can be unavoidable since the history and culture and the state of affairs in a country differ,” Hu made clear and firm intent to stick to the Chinese policy to not accept the hasty demand of the United States.

The background of such a position is a sense of national greatness that China would never risk face to accept a compromise with the claims of the United States as far as the Communist party's guidance principle is concerned. In addition, internally China has various problems such as the widening gap between rich and poor in cities and rural communities, increasing jobless, and environmental pollution, and the people's trust in the Communist Party is lost notably due to the cases of an increased number people punished for illegal actions along with declining governing ability of the Communist Party members. It is seen that there is an awareness in China that the Communist Party could endanger its own existence were it to take action toward drastic political reform in the area the U.S. calls for in addition to it of the freedom of religion.

(2) International Relations and Security

It is estimated that the United States was present at the Talks with the following perceptions toward China.

China is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. For the United States, it is necessary to go on cooperating with China in order to resolve global problematic issues such as the UN reform, international terrorism, regional disputes, and prevention of WMD proliferation. As to the nuclear issue of North Korea, China is an important country, especially as the host country for the Six Party Talks, for early and yet peaceful settlement of the problems.

On the other hand, being against the United States for her unipolar domination, China has aggressively performed a strategy to let the U.S. be one nation in the multipolarity, and practiced a well-balanced approach toward Europe, Russia and the Middle East as well as toward Central American and African countries. Particularly, China, through its active promotion of periphery diplomacy for the regions from the east of the Eurasia continent to southeastern and southwestern Asia is accelerating its move toward a regional communal society which means to eliminate U.S. influence. Moreover, China, in order to effect Chinese superiority in Asia, seems to show a sign to wedge apart the relations of the U.S.-allied countries in Asia such as Japan and South Korea, and notably in cooperation with the ROK and Russia to isolate Japan in order to sever the U.S.-Japan alliance. Thus, the possibility is glimpsed that China may intend to become a regional superpower in Asia.

(3) Military Affairs

The U.S. perceptions on China of the military affairs are as follows.

Northeast Asia is the only region where remnants of the Cold War still remain. It is a gigantic region amounting to approximately one third of the "arc of instability" which extends from Pyongyang to Istanbul via a vast Asia, which has been defined in the context of the transformation of the U.S. armed forces.

Chinese practices are noticeably deepening anti-U.S. tendency evidenced by the

strengthening military cooperation with Russia in carrying out combined military maneuvers, as well as by adopting a resolution of pullout of the U.S. bases from Central Asia through recently tightening the relationships with the countries in Central Asia that constitute the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. In addition, China is catching up with India in the field of military.

Besides purchasing aircraft, submarines and destroyers in addition to anti-air missiles and such weapons from Russia, China is rapidly modernizing its own military forces in proceeding with the development of modern warships, submarines and aircraft. China possesses nuclear warheads in addition to possessing and modernizing various types of missiles, which can put the United States and Japan and Taiwan within target range. As seen in the success of manned space flights, heightened Chinese will toward space development is also noted.

Inside the United States a tone of Chinese threat, which equates China's unclear military strategy and expansion of military strength as a threat against security rather than an involvement policy toward China, is gradually gaining strength.

(4) Taiwan Issue

The perception of the United States on being present at the U.S.-China summit can be described as below.

Declaring general strong will to unify the fatherland, China is promoting a comprehensive strategy including politics, economics and military. At the 10th period National People's Congress 3rd meeting in the spring of 2005, "Anti-Secession Law" was adopted subject to Taiwan, which makes it legal for China at its discretion to use force against Taiwan.

For the United States, continuing the "One China" policy based on the "Taiwan Relations Act" and three joint communiqués, she is against any movements of either China or Taiwan to alter the status quo.

China, with pretexts of its invading operations over Taiwan and the deterrence of the U.S. forces to impede Chinese operations, rapidly builds up its military strength, particularly naval power and missile forces, and activates exercises and training of forces. These activities are instilling a fear to invite the possibility of breakdown in the course of time in the military balance in the Taiwan Strait and the region. Especially, accidental affairs by either China or Taiwan might occur in the Taiwan Strait. Therefore, careful watch will be necessary.

(5) Economy and Trade

As to the background of the two leaders' talks over the economy and trade, the United States' perception toward China can be described as follows.

China has continued the fastest economic change of any nation in the world in the past fifty

years. In the past twenty years China's average economic growth rate is 9.5%; it ranked third in the world for its total amount of import-export trade in 2004; in the near future, China will be the fourth in the world in terms of its economic scale; and there is a high possibility that it will be the largest exporting country in the world in ten years. On the other hand, in China, which has been trying to solidify a firm foundation as an economic power, there can be seen a vulnerability in a domestic foundation that bears economic development, e.g. in such aspects as bad loans, constitution of enterprises characterized by reliance in the manufacturing industry on cheap migrant laborers in addition to dependence on fake products of foreign goods rather than research and development of innovative manufacturing, a sign of expanding friction between the rural peasants and development firms in the case of a large scale development, and as devastations from environmental destruction.

As for the U.S. economy, reliance on China, a trading power, is becoming heavier. China, as an important trading counterpart for the United States, is a country from which the U.S. can import inexpensive manufactured goods, and which is a major source of the profits for U.S. big enterprises. China is the country of massive purchasing of the U.S. bonds by Chinese money.

On the other hand, China is a country trading with the United States who has had the biggest trade deficit since 2000, and her trade deficit against China in 2005 is nearly 200 billion dollars (approx. 23.8000 trillion yen), and now it is estimated to expand by 20% more than the previous year to mark the largest to date. Irritation over such trade imbalance is growing strong inside the United States. Moreover, the revaluation of Chinese Yuan (RMB) effected in July this year is viewed strongly inside the United States as being insufficient. There is a louder voice than ever there to demand China shift toward a foreign exchange system backed by the market mechanism.

In order to supply the demand for resources and energy underpinning the rapidly rising Chinese economy, China, indifferent to its pride, goes around buying up the world's resources and even moved toward acquisition of U.S. leading petroleum-developing enterprises. Some groups in the United States consider China a threat in this regard. Therefore, it is viewed that the United States, on the occasion of the summit, regards China as a stakeholder in international society, and as far as it is benefiting from practices such as trading even though the sense of value differs, would press China to take some measures with emphasis that China should keep a rule. This seems to show consideration for public opinion inside the United States. As economic growth is the supreme endeavor for China, the United States is the largest market for its export through which it can earn a trade surplus, and in order to structure a stable relationship with the United States in avoiding intensifying of trade friction, China prioritizes pursuing a common profit. It is observed, however, that there was a realization to avoid such a commitment toward the United States as it may affect directly any parts that might show shaky foundations in the domestic economy like the state bank. Accordingly, on the day imminent to the summit, November 8, China

agreed with the U.S. to control the export of fabric products to the U.S. that had been a source of trade friction. In addition, China made an announcement that it would purchase maximum 150 Boeing passenger airplanes. At the summit talks, President Hu stated that he and President Bush confirmed they will join hands in cooperation in order to gradually rectify the trade imbalance, and he was successful in avoiding antipathy with the U.S. over the trade issue. However, President Hu limited mention of the direction of future efforts and ended with a general remark without touching upon the time table or essentials in specific terms. Secretary of State Rice said that a significant portion of both meetings was spent on economic issues.

4 The feature and assessment of the visit of U.S. President Bush to China

The feature of the U.S.-China summit meeting is that the talks included a wide range of topics; such points of contention as specified as the military affairs forming the basis of China as a threat were avoided; President Bush placed emphasis on materialistic issue, economy. And he called strongly for China to open its markets and settle the trade imbalance; President Bush expressed the severe U.S. perceptions over China's human rights and democratization; and he candidly expressed the frustration of the United States toward democracy in China, which has as yet no visible indications compared with its swift economic development. This implies that the United States makes it clear that she takes a serious view of involvement policy for the moment rather than deterrent policy against China in expressing a clear and powerful message to it that a growing China should bear a responsibility befitting a great state in the areas of both internal and foreign affairs.

For China, as President Hu stated that he agreed with President Bush to come at the two countries' relationship in a strategic perspective because the relationship with the United States is the most important bilateral, it is viewed that China judges that strengthening the relations with the United States, sole superpower, cannot be sidestepped if its Communist Party regime is to last.

Secretary Rice mentioned that the atmosphere of the talks was open, frank, and significant; but there was no notable progress in the discussion over either China's internal political system or economic interests; and therefore the summit can be assessed as meaning that both leaders, emphasizing their principles to each other, did not allow their antipathy to surface even though they take different stances; they made their attitudes clear to pursue practical and current common interests. Therefore, except for economic and trade issues, at the talks, the "complex" strategic aspect ended in principle and was shelved; that is, the complex strategic aspect is meant by indication of structural alteration in geopolitics in Asia and yet resemblance to a crucial movements with such as increasing buildup of Chinese military strength and its transparency besides Taiwan issue, Chinese diplomacy for purchasing resources and energy indifferent to their status, energy supply diplomacy, and the movements to try to eliminate the United States through expanding the Chinese influence in the fields of economy, foreign relations and military in Asia.

As for the future prospects of U.S.-China relations, there is no denying the possibility that the United States may change her involvement policy toward China due to possible changes in collaboration between the U.S. and China, depending on whether and how and by when China will implement and show its good faith on the agreement that both sides expressed at the summit, and, in addition, how China will interpret and act for the security and the relations with other Asian countries which the United States implied China made by President Bush when he made in Japan and South Korea.

5 Meaning for Japan

President Bush, in the policy address in Kyoto, placed the strong U.S.-Japan allied relations as a cornerstone of stability of Asia. He mentioned Japan, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan as examples of countries that have promoted democracy and been prosperous. Doing so, he clarified the U.S. future involvement to be strengthened in Asia by implying China in such a manner as to urge its expansion of freedom.

As democratization and economic issues were given importance at the U.S.-China summit talks, not much time was spent on the military and Taiwan issues. President Bush, at the talks between the leaders in Japan and South Korea, emphasized the continuous maintaining of the U.S.-Japan and the U.S.-ROK allied relations, and he implied that transformation of the U.S. forces is the basis of the policy toward China. It seems that the United States sent a strong message to China that she would be involved in Asia by continuing to maintain a deterrent power that would enhance regional peace and stability particularly together with Japan, an Asian-allied country, to cope with continually increasing Chinese military strength.

The United States observes that China aimed at being a regional power in Asia, in order to expand its influence throughout Asia, shows a move to restricting the U.S. repercussions over the region, and shocks especially Japan, the allied nation with the U.S., in cooperation with South Korea and others with historical perceptions against Japan, and thereby intends separation between Japan and the United States. For this reason, President Bush showed intent to inhibit China on November 18 by securing an agreement to drive comprehensive cooperation in political, security, and economic and social fields with the ASEAN leaders toward the direction of signing the FTA after talks with those who were attending the APEC summit.

For Japan's part, she must have an accurate perception that the United States is carefully weighing wariness over China while she is adopting an involvement policy. At the same time, as it is said that in China a sense of danger is smoldering within chiefly military authorities, it is necessary for Japan to see if there will be a possibility for the United States to determine her deterrent policy against China, and if so, the timing of the determination. Moreover, Japan, centering the continued U.S.-Japan alliance, goes on aiming at expansion of benefits between Japan and the United States on an Asian and global scale, and will be needed to further Japan's

China policy by enhancing more alignment in the fields of politics, economic interests, security and crisis management with Asian countries like those of ASEAN and India besides Australia and New Zealand with which Japan shares common values of freedom and democracy.

2.2 Taiwan: Its Tardy Introduction of Weapons and Equipment from the United States

Along with China's remarkable economic growth and budgetary increase for defense over some ten years, the military strength of the Peoples' Liberation Army increases every year, and as the years go by the military balance in the Taiwan Strait is inclining to China's superiority.

It is understood that the United States duly recognizes that any sort of military coercion against Taiwan is regarded as a threat to the peace and security in the East Asia region and it is "grave concern to the United States," as defined in the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act. And also understood is that as U.S. policy, she makes efforts to maintain the military balance between China and Taiwan under the "one China policy" in order to keep the peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait based on the three joint communiqués; she takes a stand against any unilateral decision that the present situation may be altered by either China or Taiwan; and as long as military force is not used, the China-Taiwan issue should be resolved by the parties concerned. Amidst such a situation, the Director of the CIA demonstrated the perception at the Congressional report that Taiwan was a central part of China's military modernization, and the modernization and buildup of Chinese military forces was undermining the power balance in the Taiwan Strait. Former Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage expressed his view in Tokyo on February 28, 2005 that the rapid enhancement of Chinese military capabilities, particularly the upgrading of its naval capability, would require careful attention.

The Department of Defense, in its released "Annual Report on the Military Power of the People's Republic of China," analyzes the specific war potentials as follows: China has deployed some 650-730 mobile CSS-6 and CSS-7 short-range ballistic missiles (SRBMs) to garrisons opposite Taiwan; deployment of these systems is increasing at a rate of 100 missiles per year; and regarding air power, China has more than 700 aircraft operational against Taiwan, although many of these are obsolete. The Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command stated on March 31, 2004 that the United States continues to direct U.S. energy into maintaining Taiwan defense capabilities in the face of the Chinese military buildup, and the United States actively pursues work with utmost concern to prevent miscalculation by either China or Taiwan which might result in accidental military conflict in the Taiwan Strait.

For the purpose of supporting the buildup of Taiwan's defense power by the United States to

maintain the military balance in the Taiwan Strait, basic agreement of the negotiation for the sale of weapon systems was adopted between the United States and Taiwan in April 2001. Both before and afterwards, the U.S. government in April 1999 and the Congress in June 2004 respectively approved the sale of early warning radar systems to Taiwan. In addition, the sale of eight Kidd-class destroyers to Taiwan was approved and their introduction to Taiwan is proceeding with two delivered to Taiwan in 2005. Moreover, the U.S. sale of Patriot PAC-3 (anti-missile Patriot Advanced Capability-3) capable of countering ballistic missile to Taiwan was approved by the U.S. government in April 1999, and P-3C anti-submarine aircraft and diesel-electric submarines in April 2001 respectively. Still more, according to Taiwan newspapers, it is reported that the U.S. and Taiwan agreed to declare that an Aegis-equipped destroyer be provided to Taiwan.

In response to these moves of the U.S. and Taiwan, China, in its “Chinese Defense White Paper” issued in December 2004, says that the Taiwan Straits situation has become the biggest immediate threat to the stability of the Asia-Pacific region, and should there occur serious changes towards “Taiwan independence”, the Chinese armed forces will resolutely and thoroughly crush such a reckless attempt at any cost. Moreover, China expresses the “sacred responsibility” of the Chinese armed forces to stop splitting the country. China is totally opposed to the U.S. arms sale movement to Taiwan, saying, “Such a movement is sending a wrong signal to the Taiwan independence authorities.”

A campaign plan of the PLA in case of emergency of the Taiwan Straits is said to capitulate Taiwan by conducting blitz tactics before the United States can intervene on behalf of Taiwan, specifically, by attacking with bombers, ballistic and cruise missiles, by a naval blockade with submarines and destroyers, in combination with electronic warfare. At the same time China could employ deterrent attacks on the U.S. naval vessels and others coming to support Taiwan, and would stop the U.S. forces intervention by enhancing its missile attack capabilities onto the U.S. bases and facilities in Japan.

Since Chinese military buildup is reported prominently, Taiwan’s Legislative Institute, without a hitch, approved a special budget for U.S. military hardware to introduce weapons and equipment from the United States in order to maintain the military balance between China and Taiwan. From this it is appropriate to think that the introduction of weaponry is progressing smoothly, but at the Legislative Institute of Taiwan where the opposition party occupies the majority, entering into even the deliberation of the special military budget bill for U.S. military hardware (such as the Patriot PAC-3 anti-air missile and P-3 anti-submarine patrol aircraft and diesel-electric submarine approved by the U.S. government for their sale to Taiwan on April, 1999 and in April, 2004 respectively) has been blocked over 30 times, meeting ferocious disagreement from the opposition party, which insists that the introduction of the weaponry from the United States would arouse China. Thus, the matter of essential decision-making related to security has

turned the issue into a political football over several years and it is the present state in Taiwan that there is no prospect for the early passage of the budget bill.

For this reason, Taiwan's Defense Minister Lee Jye brought the issue of early budget formation in March 2005 with regard to the need to introduce the weaponry from the United States in the following expressions:

- Under the existing circumstances where China promoted its military expansion with speeding the deployment of new type submarines, Taiwanese forces would not be able to sustain themselves in case of China-Taiwan crisis if the present situation is left as it is.
- If Taiwan is remiss in building up defense capabilities, in 2012 the ratio of fighting power of the two forces in the Taiwan Straits will be 2.87 for China and 1 for Taiwan (as seen in a result of computer-simulated war game). Then, China will attack Taiwan with confidence. (Note: Generally speaking, the offensive side wins in war when it holds three times as much war potential as the defensive side.)
- When Taiwan allows Chinese landing, the island's forces could hold on some two weeks.
- If Taiwan executes a special military budget to introduce U.S. manufactured weapons and equipment, the ratio of the military capability of the two forces in 2012 will be 1.67 for China to 1 for Taiwan, showing that judging from the ratio of war potentials for attack and defense, mainland China will stand no chance of success.

President Chen Shui-bian, who was concerned about the delayed passage of the budget because introduction of Patriot PAC-3 anti-air missile to cope with Chinese missile is hurried, is trying to pass the budget bill by shifting the special military budget to the nature of ordinary defense budget. However, the opposition party says that the result of the referendum (which included a ballot asking yes or no whether Taiwan needed to deal with Chinese missiles targeting Taiwan) carried out at the same time as the 2004 general election, the positive answer did not reach a majority, which expressed a public sentiment that the people rejected the introduction of missiles. The opposition party assumes denial of the related funding for the Patriot PAC-3 anti-air missile by the name of the defense budget.

As to the prospect for the passage of the budget to introduce weaponry from the United States such as submarines, judging from the antagonism between the governmental and opposition parties, a distortion between the President and the opposition party that occupies majority in the Legislative Institute must be dispelled. In such a situation, it is observed that the budget will not pass only until the time when the presidential candidates from the political parties occupying majority seats at the Legislative Institute assume the Presidency in March 2008. This could only occur after the December 2007 Presidential election.

Of the other aspect, it is heard that there are opinions in Taiwan that delaying approval of the special military budget is not a serious worry for Taiwan, for the United States understands well the current state of the island.

Concerning this situation of Taiwan, Mr. Bonnie S. Glasser, Senior Associate of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, (Nihon Keizai Shinbun, August 24, 2004), said that if China-Taiwan conflicts were to occur, it would be difficult for the United States to keep a non-intervention stance due to U.S. domestic affairs and security. However, Dr. Larry M. Wortzel, Visiting Fellow, the Heritage Foundation, (Nihon Keizai Shinbun, July 31, 2004), gave the bitter advice that, in case of emergency in the Taiwan Straits, an expectation that the United States will defend Taiwan to the last is prevailing in Taiwan, but no U.S. leaders feel pleasant about it.

The saying, "Your behavior is enough to provoke a saint," applies if the introduction of weaponry from the United States is delayed further and the military balance between China and Taiwan inclines greatly to Chinese superiority because execution of the special military budget bill, which has become a political issue of the government and opposition parties at Taiwan's Legislative Institute, might continue to be delayed in the future; and it is wondered whether the United States strongly and actively continues to support Taiwan for its defense in accordance with the Taiwan Relations Act. Only China may hope that Taiwan's own defense power lowers and the U.S.-Taiwan relations become imperiled.

3. Feature: Pirates off Somalia Coast

A Seaborn Cruises luxury liner, run by American shipping firm, traveling off the coast of Somalia was attacked by piracy on November 5. This was the 23rd attack off Somalia waters since March 2005. The waters drew a lot of attention this month (November 2005) due to a spate of piracy attacks in the region. In this Chapter, we feature Somalia waters with an outline of the attack of the Seaborn Cruises, the background of the frequent piracy acts and measures to be taken.

1. Outline of Seaborn Spirit attack

The 10,000-ton luxurious Seaborn Spirit was attacked by piracy about 100 nautical miles (160 km) off the coast of Somalia in the early morning of November 5. The Seaborn, which had left the port of Egypt for Mombasa, Kenya, carried 312 passengers and crew but nobody was harmed except that one crew member was slightly injured. After escaping from the attack, the ship changed its destination to Seychelles.

The Seaborn Spirit cruise ship after a pirate attack



Source: Channelnewsasia.com, Asia Pacific News, 8 Nov. 2005

The pirates on two inflatable boats attacked the Seaborn with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades. Three ex-British Army (Gurkhas) security staff of the ship responded with high pressure water hoses and a directional sonic device that activates a loud sound. In the end, the liner managed to get clear away from pirates. The sonic device, Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD) was developed as a military use after the USS Cole had been attacked in Yemen in 2000. The use of LRAD was publicized for the first time, although ships plying the Somali waters regularly carry such kind of sonic device together with security guards (many of them are ex-Gurkhas). When the liner arrived at Seychelles on November 7, the US Gonzalez experts discovered an unexploded grenade from a passenger's cabin and removed it.

A vessel with passengers was assaulted for the first time since 1985 when the Italian cruise ship was attacked by four Palestinian in the Mediterranean Sea.

(MarketWatch, November 5, 2005, AAP, November 7, 2005, Herald Sun, November 8, 2005, NEWS.com.au, November 13, 2005)

2. Background of the frequent occurrence of piracy off Somalia waters

(1) The number of the piracy attacks in Somalia

The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) says the Seaborn case was the 23rd attack since March 2005. During this period, there was also an attack against a food carrying vessel from the United Nation's World Food Program. Attacks or highjacks off the coast of Somalia have been continuously increasing up to 32 cases since March, according to the IMB's report published on November 22. This is a considerable increase compared to two cases in 2004.

In response to the situation, the IMB and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) have designated the Somali coast as the most dangerous water in the Indian Ocean. There are growing concerns that not only the number of piracy attacks has increased, but the method has become more aggressive and skillful. In the past, many of attacks in the waters were against fishing boats near the shore in the Gulf of Aden off northern Somalia. However, in the last one year pirates have shifted to southern area and started targeting at further off shore ships. The IMB's Piracy's Reporting Center (PRC) based at Kuala Lumpur had advised to keep 50 nautical miles distance from the coast of Somalia until 2003. In 2004, the PRC extended the off-limits zone by 50 nautical miles and furthermore extended by another 100 miles up to 200 nautical miles in 2005.

Likewise, the US Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) advises ships cruising Somalia waters to avoid sailing into the port of Mogadishu and to stay at least 200 nautical miles away from the Somali coast. On November 17, the ONI started to broadcast on radio an alert to ships. On the same day, the US State Department renewed its alert against terror for several East African nations, including Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia and Yemen. In particular, the State Department issued a warning to the Horn of Africa waters and the southern Red Sea near Yemen as there have been rising number of piracy acts in the areas.

(MarketWatch, November 5, 2005, HAN-GEESKA AFRIKA ONLINE, November 7, 2005, TIME Asia, November 7, 2005, AFP, November 22, 2005)

(2) Somalia's domestic situation

Somalia, along 2,300 miles coast, has a population of over seven million. The country has operated without effective central government since the former dictator Mohamed Siad Barre had

been ousted from power in 1991. The Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG) is located in Kenyan capital of Nairobi. The IMB says the pirates in Somalia are mostly composed of the former Somali navy and fishermen. Currently there are three of well-organized piracy groups in the region. Maritime authorities believe the Somali pirates have become more and more aggressive and skillful, which makes more difficult to block their acts. Some of them are operating from an unplaceable mother ship moving around off the Somalia coast. Noel Choong, director of the PRC said “The Somalia coast has become a pirates’ paradise.” He also said the three piracy groups can afford to buy new boats and arms out of several hundred thousand dollars ransom money they had received.

(The Post Chronicle, November 7, 2005, The Associated Press, November 7, 2005, Middle East Online, November 8, 2005, TIME Online, November 14, 2005)

Map of Somalia



Source: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/atlas/somali/somali-d.pdf>

3. Countermeasures

As described above, the IMB and the IMO have declared the Somali coast as the most dangerous waters in the Indian Ocean. However, there has been a growing concern that none of the governments or marine transport industries has taken proper measures to protect crew members and cargos, which leaves ships vulnerable to terror attacks.

London’s maritime union, the National Union of Marine, Aviation and Shipping Transport Officers (NUMAST) called for declaring the water off Somalia as a combat area on the day

following the attack of *Seaborn Spirit*, which will give crew members rights to refuse to sail into the waters, force shipowners to hire some extra security guards and ensure danger allowance to crew and insurance to passengers.

Somalia, having the longest coastline in Africa, is not an easy place to patrol and monitor. A joint naval unit "Combined Task Force 150", formed by the US, Germany, France and as needed, UK and Italy have already conducted patrols of the Gulf of Aden and the Horn of Africa waters against terrorist activities and arms transportations. Commander Dirk Gross at the German Defense Ministry said that piracy attacks in the Gulf of Aden have been reduced, which was due to a secondary effect of "Operation Enduring Freedom" (patrol activities in the Indian Ocean involving military operations in Afghanistan). A Commander of the US Navy in Bahrain said coalition forces will help ships attacked by pirates but the main purpose is not handling piracy or maritime crime. Due to the increased naval presence in the Gulf of Aden, attacks by piracy have shifted to further south where the naval unit has conducted patrols less regularly.

The Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) on November 10 urged the United Nations through the IMO to provide international armed patrols off the Somalia coast in order to strengthen security of the main ship lanes of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. The KPA managing director Brown Ondego expressed his expectations for the United Nations to take measures to prevent piracy attacks and to increase security of ships plying Somali waters. He ensured safety of Kenyan waters and the port of Mombasa, saying Kenyan waters are constantly monitored by a sophisticated radar system operated by the Kenyan Navy.

As mentioned earlier, the main factor behind piracy-infested Somali waters is lack of functional central government. In order to tackle this issue, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) held the 26th Session of The Council of Ministers Meeting at the invitation of the TFG, aimed at accomplishing reconciliation process in Somalia. A joint statement was issued to urge the United Nations Security Council to take appropriate measures for paving the way for IGAD Peace Support Mission to Somalia. (The joint statement: HAN GEESKA AFRIKA ONLINE, December 1, 2005)

The TFG signed a two-year contract with the US marine security company on November 25 to prevent further piracy attacks. The NY-based Topcat Marine Security and the TFG signed a deal which is worth over US\$50 million in Nairobi to escort ships sailing Somali waters. According to Peter Casini, Topcat's head of research and development, the company will target a mother ship used by the pirates for attacks. "We will end the piracy very quickly, there is no question about that," "There is a ship that is launching small ships 75 to 100 miles from the shore; our goal is to take the mother ship." he said.

(TIME Online, November 7, 2005, TIME ASIA, November 7, 2005, HAN GEESKA AFRIKA

ONLINE, November 11, 2005, HAN GEESKA AFRIKA ONLINE, December 1, 2005, Reuters, November 26, 2005)

Links

AAP (Australian Associated Press)	http://aap.com.au/
ABC News	http://abc.net.au/news/
ABC-CBN News	http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/
AFP (Agence France Presse)	http://www.afp.com/home/
Antara	http://www.antara.co.id/en/
Asia Pulse	http://www.asiapulse.com/
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GLOBE AND MAIL	http://www.theglobeandmail.com/
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Herald Sun	http://www.heraldsun.news.com.au/
Hindustan Times	http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/7446_0,00050002.htm
INQ7.Net	http://www.inq7.net/
International Herald Tribune	http://www.iht.com/
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Middle East Online	http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/
News.com.au	http://www.news.com.au/
People's Daily Online	http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/
PIA (Philippine Information Agency)	http://www.pia.gov.ph/
PTI (Press Trust of India)	http://www.ptinews.com/pti/ptisite.nsf
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The Dawn	http://www.dawn.com/2005/11/01/index.htm
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