

OPRF MARINT Monthly Report

May 2007



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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 May 2007

Security: On May 9, Foreign Ministry parliamentary secretary Ahmad Shabery Cheek said in answer to the question at the Senate committee that Malaysia had not asked countries using the Straits of Malacca to contribute to the cost of maintaining security in the waterway although Kuala Lumpur has to spend a large sum of money for that purpose.

According to Andrew Mwangura, director of the Seafarers Assistance Program, Somali pirates have hijacked a cargo ship headed for Mogadishu on May 10, which is the third attack since January 2007.

Guy Thomas, scientific and technology consultant of the Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) of the U.S. Coast Guard, said in an interview with CQ magazine pointed out that members of Congress should be more concerned about the threat of terrorists using mines and small boats to attack multiple U.S. ports and disrupt the economy, and lawmakers should grant more funding to the MDA.

On May 20, U.S. Navy's Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO) in Bahrain issued a warning to all merchant ships to stay at least 200 nautical miles off the east coast of Somalia.

Military: The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) turns 40 on May 5, and in conjunction with the 40th anniversary celebration, commissioned its first *Formidable*-Class Stealth Frigate, RSS *Formidable*. All of the remaining five frigates are expected to be operational by 2009.

Admiral Timothy Keating, the commander of U.S. Pacific Command, said in an interview on May 12 that China's interest in developing an aircraft carrier fleet is understandable.

The Republic of Korea will build its seventh naval base in Jeju. The facilities to be constructed by 2014 at the cost of 800 billion won (US\$ 850 million) will provide berths for more than 20 warships and submarines.

India will have three aircraft carriers within ten years. The *Admiral Gorshkov* acquired from Russia will be deployed to the fleet within the duration of two to three years as INS *Vinkramaditya*. India is also planning to build 42,000 ton carriers, or Air Defense Ships (ADS's). The first ADS ship is expected to enter service in 2012, and the second one in 2017.

Nine U.S. naval ships including two aircraft carriers passed through the Straits of Hormuz at mid-night, and assembled off Iran at mid-day on May 23. This was the largest maneuver since the 2003 Iraq war.

On May 25, with President Roh Moo-hyun watching, South Korea's first Aegis class destroyer was launched. Named *King Sejong*, a 7,600 ton Aegis class destroyer KDX-III is a step toward giving Korea the ability to protect sea lanes far from the territorial waters of the country. The Navy plans to deploy a total of three Aegis class ships.

Diplomacy and International relations: On May 15, U.S. President George W. Bush made an announcement to urge the Senate to act favorably on U.S. accession to the United Nations

Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) during this session of Congress (by the end of 2007). On May 16, Joseph R. Biden (Democrat), Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee pledged he would work closely with President Bush and Richard G. Lugar, the Committee's Ranking Minority Member, to carry the bill of accession to the treaty "in coming months".

On May 20, a North Korean cargo ship, the *Kang Nam I*, entered Thilawa port, 30 kilometers south of Yangon, Myanmar. This is believed to be the first port call by a ship from North Korea since the two countries agreed to resume diplomatic relations in April 2007.

Shipping, Resources, Environment and Miscellaneous: Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badaw, who is also the finance minister, told on May 8 that he had agreed to the project of building a pipeline in Malaysia's northern region. A plan of laying a pipeline in Malaysia has begun to move forward for construction at a total cost of seven billion US dollar. The line covers about 312 kilometers from Kedah State, on the northwestern coast, to Kelantan State, in the northeast. On May 28, Trans-Peninsula, major entrepreneur, signed an agreement with the Malaysian company Ranhill Engineers and Constructors and with the Indonesian company PT Tripatra for the design and construction of the pipeline.

China has begun to build a fleet of more than 90 supertankers to improve its control over oil imports. Beijing is planning to carry more than half of the oil imports on Chinese-owned tankers.

1. Information Digest

1.1 Security

May 1 “Los Angeles Port tightens security” (Reuters, May 1, 2007)

According to Los Angeles port authorities, the port has doubled its police force to 200 and tightened surveillance of ships with the help of more cameras and patrol boats. Also, they are installing a new screening system at the cruise passenger terminal to be used on both passengers and baggage. The port handled about 8.46 million TEU in 2006, up 13.16 percent from the previous year. The federal program requires security screening of all workers with unescorted access to ports, where the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) program of the port authority enters its second phase of the in July 2007. The number subject to checks is expected to rise to 850,000 from about 400,000 workers, who were required to be screened early last year in the first phase. On the other hand, some trade associations and longshoremen unions expressed concerns about the potential violation of port workers' civil liberties, reduction of manpower working at the ports and slow-down of port activities, despite their support of the increased port-security measure.

May 9 “Malaysia requests no direct funds to Users of the Malacca Straits” (Ship Talk, May 9, 2007)

On May 9, Foreign Ministry parliamentary secretary Ahmad Shabery Cheek said in answer to the question at the Senate committee that Malaysia had not asked countries using the Straits of Malacca to contribute to the cost of maintaining security in the waterway although Kuala Lumpur has to spend a large sum of money for that purpose. However, he said Malaysia would request for any form of assistance from user countries, and would welcome such support as training and capacity-building program related to strengthening the security in the Malacca Straits. On that occasion, Ahmad Shabery stressed that, whatever support it was, the rights and sovereignty of the littoral states would have to be respected.

May 9 “Indonesian Navy Chief warns of potential dangers in the Malacca Straits” (Antara, May 9, 2007)

On May 9, Indonesian Navy Chief of Staff Admiral Slamet Soebijianto said that the maritime crime by pirate and others in the Malacca Straits have been significantly reduced with the coordinated patrols conducted by Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore as well as security patrol by the Indonesian Navy in the Straits. However, Slamet also stressed they should remain alert to the potential threat in the Malacca Straits.

May 10 “Somali pirates hijack cargo ship” (Scotsman.com, May 10, 2007)

According to Andrew Mwangura, director of the Seafarers Assistance Program, pirates have

hijacked a cargo ship headed for Mogadishu on May 10, which is the third attack since January 2007. A general cargo ship has been hijacked 12 miles north of Mogadishu. She is now anchored at Hobiyo anchorage, a base for Somali pirates, about 400 kilo-meters north of Mogadishu.

May 11 “Asian ports are vulnerable to terrorist attacks” (Asia Times Online, May 11, 2007)

Alan Boyd, a commentator on Asian affairs and resident in Sydney, remarks on the current situation on anti-terrorist measures at the Asian ports in his article entitled “Asian ports still open to terror.” The following is the gist of its report.

First, as for the danger of maritime terrorism, Boyd points out that Jemaah Islamiyah and the Abusayyaf Group, two Southeast Asian terrorist groups with close links to al-Qaeda, are known to have developed maritime capabilities, as has Sri Lanka's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Much of the expertise acquired by the two groups is believed to have been passed on by al-Qaeda's maritime-operations commander Abdul al-Rahim al-Nashiri who conceived the idea of suicide attack by small craft. Although he was captured in November 2002, a suicide attack by small craft was targeted on the U.S. *Cole* in Aden in October 2000 and on MV *Limburg*, a large crude-oil carrier being leased by state-owned Petronas of Malaysia in October 2002 respectively.

Based upon this issue, Boyd further points out on the security situation of the Asian ports as follows:

- (1) The International Maritime Organization (IMO) launched an International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code), aiming to deny terrorists the means of accessing vessels and their loads. All ports and ships are required to meet minimum security procedures, including the installation of an automatic identification system that provides authorities with a vessel's identity, position, course and speed. Since the IPS code was implemented in 2004, only 53 percent of ships and 50 percent of ports are believed to have been in full compliance. Although that proportion has since risen, there continues to be resistance from governments and ship-owners alike because of the substantial cost.
- (2) Ships that do not comply can be turned away by ports, but relatively few governments have chosen to enforce this provision. In any case, the code is only binding on vessels of 500 tons or more, which excludes thousands of smaller ships that operate in Asia.

As for the reason why policy will not go smoothly, Boyd points out that another barrier is the ISPS Code, like the complementary Container Security Initiative (CSI) and Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), is viewed as a U.S. initiative tailored to protect U.S. ports from offshore terrorism threats. Only about 40 ports worldwide are partners in the CSI, including 12 in Asia: Yokohama, Tokyo, Nagoya and Kobe in Japan; Singapore; Hong Kong; Busan in South Korea; Port Klang and Tanjung Pelepas in Malaysia; Laem Chabang in Thailand; Shanghai in China; and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. Of the 15 nations that have signed up the PSI, only two - Japan and Singapore - are in Asia. Boyd says China, South Korea and India harbor doubts over the legality of the searches; Beijing and Seoul are especially worried over how North Korea might react if it became a target.

May 14 “Mines and small boats are threat of harbor terror” (Congressional Quarterly, May 14, 2007)

Guy Thomas, scientific and technology consultant of the Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) of the U.S. Coast Guard, said in an interview with CQ magazine as follows: Members of Congress should be more concerned about the threat of terrorists using mines and small boats to attack multiple U.S. ports and disrupt the economy, and lawmakers should grant more funding to the MDA. A scenario that greatly troubles him is that terrorists might use multiple small boats — carrying chemical, biological or nuclear weapons and coordinated via inexpensive satellite radio — to attack several U.S. ports at one time. Thomas said terrorists could also drop mines in the harbor as they entered to really slow seaborne relief operations to the port. The mines could be easily hidden underwater and there is no knowing until a ship passes by and is hit.

According to Thomas, one of counter-measures against smaller boats is to hold them to the same requirements as larger ones — smaller ships should have to report identifying information once they are within at least 96 hours of U.S. shores. Admiral Thad Allen, the Commander of U.S. Coast Guard is deeply concerned about the threat from smaller boats. “We’ve done a great deal in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks to secure our ports from potential threats posed by commercial ships, but we know very little about the 13 million recreational vessels that ply U.S. waters,” Allen said in March 2007. The Coast Guard will hold a summit in June on improving security of small boats.

Note: MDA is “National Strategy for Maritime Security” by U.S. President, which is defined as an effective understanding of anything in the maritime environment that can affect the safety, security, economy, or environment of the United States.

May 20 “U.S. Navy warns ships off Somali waters” (Reuters, May 21, 2007)

On May 20, U.S. Navy's Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO) in Bahrain issued a warning to all merchant ships to stay at least 200 nautical miles off the east coast of Somalia. “Although there are coalition forces operating in the area, they cannot be everywhere monitoring every ship that passes the coast of Somalia,” MARLO said. It urged merchant shipping to inform coalition forces of any suspicious activity immediately. The United Nations on May 20 called for international action against a piracy off Somalia, saying it was threatening to cut off aid supplies to Somali people.

1.2 Military

May 1 “Indian Navy to have Russia-made carrier in 2008-end or early 2009” (RxPG News, May 1, 2007)

On May 1, Indian Navy chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta said Soviet-era aircraft carrier *Admiral Gorshkov* would arrive in the Indian waters by 2008-end or early 2009, as scheduled, dismissing

reports that the delivery of the carrier would be delayed. The delay would cause troubles since the existing carrier INS *Viraat* is ageing, while the carrier being built at Cochin Shipyard Ltd would take another four to five years to be launched. Admiral Gorshkov, which is undergoing refit in Russia, is to be renamed INS *Vikramaditya*, and is expected to be stationed at the Karwar (located south of Goa) base on the Western seaboard. This aircraft carrier will have a ski-jump, and can operate the Sea-Harriers as well as the MiG-29K on board. According to the chief of naval staff, as many as 34 ships of various types are under construction in India. Moreover, the navy has also asked for funds from the central government for building more than 40 ships. It will take another 10 to 15 years for all these vessels are expected to be commissioned within the duration of 10 to 15 years.

May 5 “U.S. Navy’s new nuclear attack submarine commissioned” (Star Bulletin, May 6, 2007)

The USS *Hawaii*, the third *Virginia*-class nuclear fast-attack submarine of the U.S. Navy joined the fleet on May 5. The lead unit of the class, the USS *Virginia*, was commissioned in Norfolk, Va., in 2004, and the second one, USS *Texas*, was commissioned in Galveston, Texas, in 2006. The *Virginia* class submarine has a displacement of 7,800 tons. It is able to launch Tomahawk land-attack missiles, and can also conduct covert surveillance. The *Hawaii* will be based in Connecticut for two years before moving to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

May 5 “Singaporean Navy commissions its first stealth frigate” (MINDEF Singapore, May 5, 2007)

The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) turns 40 on May 5. In conjunction with the 40th anniversary celebration, the RSN commissioned its first *Formidable*-Class Stealth Frigate, RSS *Formidable*. After being launched in France in January 2004, RSS *Formidable* arrived in Singapore in July 2005. All of the remaining five frigates are expected to be operational by 2009. The 3,200-ton frigates are highly versatile warships that are equipped with advanced combat systems and possess stealth capabilities, and carry a Sikorsky S-70B Naval Helicopter. Being highly automated, each frigate will only require a crew of 71.

May 6 “U.S. aircraft carrier Nimitz arrives in the Persian Gulf” (The New York Times, May 6, 2007)

Commodore Kevin Aandahl, Commander of the U.S. 5th Fleet, said on May 6 that the aircraft carrier USS *Nimitz* would relieve another carrier USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* within two days to support the military operations in Afghanistan and Iran with another aircraft carrier USS *John C. Stennis*. Since February 2007, the United States has been maintaining two carriers in the areas, which is first noted since the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003. Based on normal carrier deployment of six to eight months, the U.S. Navy will continue to keep two carrier carriers in the region at least through August.

May 7 “Australia and Singapore commence joint Maritime Exercise” (MINDEF Singapore, May 9, 2007)

According to an announcement of the Singapore Defense Ministry on May 9, the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) is participating in Exercise SINGAROO 07, a joint exercise with the armed forces of Australia from May 7 to 11. Involving the navies and air forces of Singapore and Australia, the exercise is conducted in the Singapore Strait and the South China Sea. Exercise SINGAROO 07 is the eleventh in the series of maritime warfare exercises between the navies and air forces of Singapore and Australia. The exercise provides the opportunity for the two military counterparts of both countries to enhance mutual understanding, promote inter-operability and strengthen professional ties.

May 9 “India’s Naval Chief visits Myanmar” (Mizzima News, May 9, 2007)

India's Naval Chief Admiral Sureesh Mehra has started a nine-day tour of Burma and Singapore on May 9. During Naval Chief's parleys with SDPC members, the arms transfer to Myanmar is likely to become the main issue. India recently supplied Myanmar with two Islander Naval surveillance aircraft as well as small naval gun boats and light artillery guns as part of its effort to strengthen military ties with Myanmar. The strategic importance of Myanmar in the Indian Ocean has made India look towards naval cooperation with Myanmar. Former Indian Naval Chief Admiral Madhvendra Singh visited the key Myanmar naval base of Coco Islands in 2003. Then Indian Naval Chief Admiral Ad Arun Prakash also visited there in January 2006. The Indian warships visited Myanmar three times in the past three years. In exchange, a Myanmar's corvette docked at Port Blair (South Andaman Island) to take part in “Milan 2006.” This was the first time in four decades that a Myanmar's ship had visited a foreign port. Following his visit to Myanmar, Admiral Mehra will tour Singapore to attend the International Maritime exhibition.

May 12 “U.S. Pacific Force Commander expressed understanding on China’s having an aircraft carrier” (New VOA.com, May 12, 2007)

Admiral Timothy Keating, the commander of U.S. Pacific Command, said in an interview on May 12 that China's interest in developing an aircraft carrier fleet is 'understandable. Based on this view, at his meeting with China's navy chief, Vice Admiral Wu Shengli, Admiral Keating explained the difficulty and complexity of developing, building and operating an aircraft carrier. Keating also said the United States would be willing to help if that is what China decides to do.

May 15 “Asia to spends over U.S. \$108b for regional maritime security” (Channel News Asia, May 15, 2007)

According to the sources who participated in the 6th International Maritime Defense Exhibition and Conference (IMDEX Asia 2007), Asian countries are expected to spend about 108 billion U.S. dollars beefing up their navies over the next ten years, placing the region ahead of the United States and Britain. However, industry watchers at the IMDEX Asia 2007 said the increase

in spending will be an overall boost to regional maritime security, rather than leading to an arms race. Analyst Piotr Lindahl estimated there would be twice as many amphibious vessels built in Asia than in any other part of the world. He pointed out: “After the tsunami, it became very evident that there was a real lack in capability in amphibious missions here. The tsunami demonstrated that it was much harder for countries in this region to provide on their own humanitarian relief, evacuation relief, fresh water and medical supplies to people stricken from the tsunami.” Roger Marriott, Managing Director, IMDEX Asia 2007, said: “All the expansion taking place in the navies in this region concurs with the perception of what they need to preserve their sovereignty and to protect their assets in EEZ.”

May 16 “ROK to build naval base on Jeju” (YONHAP News, May 16, 2007)

The Republic of Korea (ROK) will build its seventh naval base in Jeju. The facilities to be constructed by 2014 at the cost of 800 billion won (US\$ 850 million) will provide berths for more than 20 warships and submarines. The planned construction site is in the vicinity of Seogwipo in Jeju, which is located in the important strategic position for the naval presence for the defense of Korean sea-lanes. It takes about eight hours to get to Leo Island, a reef-islet southwest of Jeju claimed by both South Korea and China (while Chinese naval ships from Shanghai can get there in 14 hours). The planned Jeju base would also enable South Korea to respond more quickly in a dispute with Japan over the border of their EEZ between them.

May 16 “2nd Western Pacific Symposium Multilateral Exercise to begin” (MINDEF Singapore, May 16, 2007)

As part of the 6th International Maritime Defense Exhibition and Conference (IMDEX Asia 2007), the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) is hosting the 2nd Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS), Multilateral Sea Exercise, the Multilateral Tactical Training Center Exercise (MTTCEX) and the Maritime Security Information Exchange Seminar (MSIES). The MTTCEX, which takes place from May 15 to 18, will make use of shore simulators to help the participating navies establish and practice common procedures to deal with realistic maritime security scenarios. The MSIES will be held from May 19 to 20 to allow the WPNS navies to share their perspectives and experiences on maritime security threats such as piracy and pursuit of illegal activities. Multilateral Sea Exercise, scheduled to be held from May 19 to 20 in the South China Sea, will provide the participating WPNS navies the opportunity to practice the procedures confirmed during the MTTCEX. The seminar and exercises will involve 18 warships as well as maritime patrol aircraft and helicopters from 19 WPNS participants.

May 21 “India has three Aircraft Carriers in decade” (Strategy Page, May 21, 2007)

India will have three aircraft carriers within ten years. INS *Viraat* acquired from Britain in 1986 will be decommissioned in five years. The *Admiral Gorshkov* acquired from Russia will be deployed to the fleet within the duration of two to three years. This 45,000 carrier will be renamed *Vikramaditya* when it enters service. It will operate sixteen MiG-29 fighters of naval version and

some helicopters. India is also planning to build 42,000 ton carriers, or Air Defense Ships (ADS's). The first ADS ship is expected to enter service in 2012, and the second one in 2017. Each ADS ship will have a similar aircraft complement to the *Vikramaditya*.

May 23 “Nine U.S. warships enter Persian Gulf” (Khaleej Times, May 23, 2007)

Nine U.S. naval ships including two aircraft carriers passed through the Straits of Hormuz at mid-night, and assembled off Iran at mid-day on May 23. This was the largest maneuver since the 2003 Iraq war. U.S. Navy officials said Iran had not been notified of this plans. The fleet will start conducting exercises as part of long term effort to ensure the nearby countries of U.S. commitment to regional to regional security.

On May 23, Iran's Defense Minister Mestafa Najar said Iran would counter any threat, to which Tehran would give a strong counterattack. (Press TV, May 23, 2007)

May 23 “India begins construction of submarines” (India Defence.com, May 23, 2007)

On May 23, India started the construction of *Scorpene* class submarine in Mumbai under the French assistance. According to the plan, the first *Scorpene* will be delivered to the Indian Navy in 2012, and then one every year, which makes a total of six units for deployment. The components for the first two *Scorpene* would come from France. But most of the equipment needed for the other four submarines would be made in India under French collaboration.

May 25 “ROK Navy's Aegis Destroyer launched” (JoongAngIlbo, May 26, 2007)

On May 25, with President Roh Moo-hyun watching, South Korea's first Aegis class destroyer was launched. Named *King Sejong*, a 7,600 ton Aegis class destroyer KDX-III is a step toward giving Korea the ability to protect sea lanes far from the territorial waters of the country. The Defense Ministry has said that the *King Sejong* will be similar to ships deployed by the United States and Japan. The Navy plans to deploy a total of three Aegis class ships.

May 28 “India, China to hold periodic joint military exercises” (AP, May 29, 2007)

On May 28, Indian Defense Ministry made a statement that India and China have reached an agreement to start periodic joint military training exercises. The decision was made during the Indian army Chief Gen. J.J. Singh's weeklong visit to China, which ended on the same day. It did not give dates of when the first joint maneuvers would take place, or any further details.

May 30 “ROK may build ships for Indian Navy” (DefenseNews.com, May 30, 2007)

According to an announcement of India's Defense Ministry on May 30, Kim Jang-soo, Defense Minister of the Republic of Korea (ROK), visited India and met with Indian Defense Minister A.K. Anthony. The two leaders discussed matters of mutual interest. As a result, various steps to strengthen the existing defense cooperation between the two countries were also discussed, which includes training of armed forces personnel, exchange of visits and strengthening the mutual

cooperation between the coast guards of the two parties. India is expecting cooperation in shipbuilding, and is keen to get its warships built in ROK to meet the Indian Navy's rising demand for more ships and small vessels. To begin with, ROK could receive a contract for construction of a frigate and an escort vessel for the Indian Navy. Currently India's shipbuilding capability is saturated, but the Navy plans to buy more warships, while scrapping a large number of obsolescent vessels in the next five years.

May 31 "Australia and Philippines strengthen defense ties" (The Ministry for Defense, Australia, May 31, 2007)

Australia has already strong Defense relationship with the Philippines, which has been further strengthened with the signing of a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA). The SOFA will provide a more comprehensive legal framework to support Australian Defense Force (ADF) and Philippines personnel engaged in Defense Cooperation activities in our respective countries. It is a reciprocal document, and as such affords the same rights to ADF personnel in the Philippines and Armed Forces of the Philippines personnel in Australia. It will not provide authorization for either country to deploy troops or conduct operations in the other's territory. Currently, Australia is working with the Philippines to develop the combat capability of Philippine Army of up to 30 boats suitable for patrolling the riverine and arshland areas of Mindanao. Also, over several years, the ADF has undertaken annual counter-hijack training in the Philippines.

May 31 "U.S. Navy seeks to expand presence in W. Africa" (Defense News, June 4, 2007)

On May 31, Admiral Harry Ulrich, commander of U.S. Naval Forces in Europe, made an address in Washington, in which he said the U.S. Navy is working with countries around the Gulf of Guinea to establish a continuing naval presence in West Africa. This concurs with the Navy's driving efforts of Global Fleet Station (GFS) concept, where a U.S. Navy ship would spend several months in a region to provide a wide range of assistance and training, all in an effort to improve regional maritime security and safety. Also, the United States expects such a presence would be useful as fighting power should better intelligence on potential terrorist activity and direct action be needed. According to Ulrich, the navy is planning to deploy an amphibious ship during the period from autumn of 2007 to from spring of 2008. (The areas around the Gulf of Guinea are most frequently infested with piracy.)

1.3 Diplomacy and International Relations

May 15 "U.S. President Bush asks Senate to act favorably on joining the UNCLOS" (The White House HP, May 15, 2007)

On May 15, U.S. President George W. Bush made an announcement to advance U.S. interests

in the world's oceans, and to take actions in two ways as follows:

First, President urged the Senate to act favorably on U.S. accession to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) during this session of Congress (by the end of 2007). He said, "Joining will serve the national security interests of the United States, including the maritime mobility of our armed forces worldwide. It will secure U.S. sovereign rights over extensive marine areas, including the valuable natural resources they contain. Accession will promote U.S. interests in the environmental health of the oceans. And it will give the United States a seat at the table when the rights that are vital to our interests are debated and interpreted".

Second, President instructed the U.S. delegation to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to submit a proposal for international measures that would enhance protection of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, the area including the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The United States will propose that the IMO designate the entire area as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) – similar to areas such as the Florida Keys, the Great Barrier Reef, and the Galapagos Archipelago.

The President statement;

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/05/20070515-2.html>

U.S. gains by accession to UNCLOS

Robert Beckman, Visiting Senior Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, alluded on the U.S. gains by accession to UNCLOS in his article entitled "Bush's Decision to Accede to UNCLOS: Why it is important for Asia" in RSIS COMMENTARIES dated May 22. Referring to the past ratification failure by the opposition from the conservatives in the U.S. Senate (two-thirds favorable votes are required), he points out the UNCLOS is likely to be ratified during the present session in the current Democratic majority Congress under Joseph Biden, Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The gist of the U.S. gains by accession to UNCLOS is summarized as follows:

- (1) It will gain the right to participate as a full member in the annual meetings of the State Parties, and to participate in meetings and debates on the possible amendment of UNCLOS.
- (2) It will be able to have representatives on the international institutions created by UNCLOS, including the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), the Commission on the Continental Shelf (CLCS) and the Council of the Seabed Authority (ISA).
- (3) U.S. mining companies will be able to participate in the exploration and exploitation of deep seabed resources once it becomes commercially viable to do so.
- (4) As a party to UNCLOS the U.S. will be able to use its power and influence to ensure that the rights and freedoms essential to its navy and to international trade are not eroded. The U.S. will have access to the compulsory dispute settlement mechanism in Part XV, and will be able to legally challenge coastal states which take unilateral actions of questionable legality under UNCLOS.
- (5) The U.S. will be able to conduct military activities in ocean space in the same manner in the

past, without fear that states will be able to challenge the legality of its military activities under Part XV of UNCLOS. This is because UNCLOS allows states to “opt out” of the compulsory binding dispute settlement system in UNCLOS for disputes relating to military activities.

- (6) By becoming a party to UNCLOS the U.S. will also be better able to assert leadership in combating maritime terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by sea. The U.S.-led Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) has been regarded with suspicion by several states in Asia because it has not been clear to them what limits the U.S. regards itself as bound by when interdicting and boarding suspect ships under the PSI. If the U.S. becomes a party to UNCLOS, there will no longer be any room for doubt or suspicion on this issue.

Senate, most likely to approve joining the International Maritime Convention

On May 16, Joseph R. Biden (Democrat), Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee pledged he would work closely with President Bush and Richard G. Lugar, the Committee’s Ranking Minority Member, to carry the bill of accession to the treaty “in coming months.” (North American Inter Press Service, May 16, 2007)

On the other hand, announcing the statement on May 15, Sen., Richard Lugar said, “The Senate this year has an opportunity to plug a large hole in our national security structure by approving the Law of the Sea treaty. I have urged President Bush and my colleagues in the Senate to act soon before election year (2008)”. (Senator Richard G. Lugar Press Release; <http://lugar.senate.gov/pressapp/record.cfm?id=274361>)

Based upon the above statements of the leaders of both Majority Democratic Party and Minority Republican Party at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee over discussions on ratification of the treaty, it is highly likely that ratification of U.S. accession to UNCLOS be realized within 2007 (1st Session of 110th Congress) before election year.

On the United States and UNCLOS, see the following URL;
http://www.globalsolutions.org/in_the_beltway/united_states_and_law_sea_time_join

May 16 “China and India plays Chess Game in the Indian Ocean” (The Straits Times, May 16, 2007)

In his article entitled “Asian Giants’ Game of Chess in Indian Ocean,” journalist Anthony Paul is calling the rivalry between China and India in the Indian Ocean as “a game of oceanic chess.” The gist of the article is as follows:

- (1) The Indian Ocean will soon match the Pacific in geopolitical importance. More than 50 oil tankers navigate these areas daily; by 2020, up to 200 are expected daily, carrying some 80 percent of the Asia-Pacific’s energy consumption from the Middle East.
- (2) Ahead of this, China and India are scrambling for advantage around the ocean’s rim. In March 2007, China dispatched ten members of China’s Communist Youth League to the Seychelles, which is the first of a group of more than 300 youth volunteers to be sent to Africa over the next three years. According to the press report from India, China is rapidly increasing

military and maritime links with countries such as Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Seychelles, Mauritius and Madagascar. India is concerned about China's growing naval expansion in the Indian Ocean.

- (3) On the other hand, preempting China, India provided the Seychelles' coast guard with a fast-attack vessel in February 2005. In 2006 India agreed to mount periodic maritime patrols of the Mozambique coast and to supply armaments and defense services, including military infrastructure. India is also building a high-tech monitoring station in north Madagascar. Moreover, India has been discussing with Mauritius over New Delhi's possible long-term lease of the Agalgela Islands for 'infrastructure and tourism development.' The 70 sq km area is located 3,100km south-west of the Kochi naval base and about 1,800km off Diego Garcia, which has strategic significance.

Pointing out how quickly naval arms competitions of Anglo-German and U.S.-Japan accelerated, Anthony Paul says "oceanic chess" between China and India has already entered its initial phase.

May 20 "North Korean Ship enters Burma" (The IRRAWADDY, May 21, 2007)

On May 20, a North Korean cargo ship, the *Kang Nam I*, entered Thilawa port, 30 kilometers south of Rangoon, Myanmar. This is believed to be the first port call by a ship from North Korea since the two countries agreed to resume diplomatic relations in April 2007. It was unknown what kind of cargo the ship was carrying or whether Myanmar's authorities have conducted an inspection of the vessel.

Skepticism over North Korean Ship in Myanmar's port

Observers in Myanmar are skeptical about a statement by the country's military government saying a North Korean ship that entered port near Yangon took shelter from a bad weather. They believed the ship was on "secret mission", and was carrying military equipment and special cargo on board. In November 2006, the Korean freighter MV *Bong Hoafan* also docked in Yangon amid similar weather conditions. They are regarding the visits of the two North Korean ships were no coincidence. The analyst thought North Korea would probably get involved in Myanmar's development of uranium. The Myanmar government has confirmed publicly that uranium deposits have been found in five areas in the country. In early May 2007 Russia's federal atomic energy agency announced it would provide Myanmar with a 10-megawatt nuclear reactor for research. The analyst said he believed Burma's military leaders might be encouraged by the North Korean example to use its nuclear program as a bargaining chip in dealing with Western governments. (The IRRAWADDY, May 24, 2007)

1.4 Shipping, Resources, Environment, and Miscellaneous.

May 8 “Malaysian Prime Minister approves construction of pipeline in the northern region” (ABC Radio Australia, May 8, 2007)

Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who is also the finance minister, told on May 8 that he had agreed to the project of building a pipeline in Malaysia's northern region. The project is one of the government's major initiatives to develop Malaysia's northern region. Trans-Peninsula Petroleum will construct the 312-kilometre pipeline that will run from northwestern Kedah state, across Perak state to northeastern Kelantan state facing the South China Sea. As much as seven billion U.S. dollars will be invested in the ambitious project over eight years.

Malaysia starts cross-country pipeline construction

A plan of laying a pipeline in Malaysia has begun to move forward for construction at a total cost of seven billion U.S. dollar. The line covers 312 kilometers from Kedah State, on the northwestern coast, to Kelantan State, in the northeast. On May 28, Trans-Peninsula, major entrepreneur, signed an agreement with the Malaysian company Ranhill Engineers & Constructors and with the Indonesian company PT Tripatra for the design and construction of the pipeline. The signing was witnessed by the Malaysian prime minister, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, and the Indonesian president, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

Rahim Kamil Sulaiman, chairman of the project owner, Trans-Peninsula Petroleum, said the pipeline would be a substitute for the Strait of Malacca, through which oil is shipped from the Middle East to East Asia. Following is his outline : (1) Work is scheduled to begin in 2008 and finish in 2014. (2) This is not a political project, but is based on economic judgment. The timing of the project is perfect because China has become the world's second-largest importer of oil. (3) Financing for the construction of the pipeline will come from local and foreign investors. (Rahim said it without discussing details.)

Under the plan, crude oil would be refined in Kedah, pumped through the pipeline to Kelantan and then loaded onto tankers bound for Japan, China and South Korea, completely bypassing Singapore and the Strait of Malacca. Kedah's chief minister, Mahdzir Khalid, told two refineries, costing a total of US\$ 9 billion, would be built in Kedah by 2010 with a combined refining capacity of 450,000 barrels a day. (International Herald Tribune, May 28, 2007)

May 13 “Pakistan’s Gwadar port and China” (The Star Online, May 13, 2007)

Carrying the AP report from Gwadar in Pakistan, the Star Online (Malaysia) has reported how a remote Pakistani fishing town is being turned into a massive deep sea port benefiting from the remarkable prosperity of the Chinese economy. The article is summarized as follows:

- (1) Gwadar port is expected to start operations in the latter half of 2007. Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz recently said Gwadar could change the map of shipping in the world and serve as a regional energy hub for shipping and refining oil from the Persian Gulf.

- (2) China's interest is driven by concerns about energy security. It is seeking a place to anchor pipelines to secure oil and gas supplies from the Persian Gulf. Beijing also regards that helping Pakistan develop will promote economic activity in its far western province of Xinjiang and relieve a possibility of pent-up rebellion. Some international security experts speculate that the Chinese navy may use Gwadar, which would provoke India.
- (3) Most of the transport infrastructure needed to link Gwadar with Pakistan's northern part remains at a planning stage. When completed, it will halve the overland distance from China's far western provinces to the sea: from about 4,000 kilometers to China's east coast, to around 2,000 south to Gwadar. The first stage of a 900-kilometer road is under construction that would eventually link this southwestern tip of Pakistan with the country's north-south Indus Highway, facilitating overland transport from Gwadar toward China. However, it will still be a tough road crossing through the rugged mountain, which is often blocked by snow in winter.

May 16 “China to expand its supertanker fleet” (International Herald Tribune, May 16, 2007)

China has begun to build a fleet of more than 90 supertankers to improve its control over oil imports. Beijing is planning to carry more than half of the oil imports on Chinese-owned tankers. Although no deadline has been set to meet this goal, Chinese shipping companies are expected to order as many as 65 supertankers, worth an estimated US\$ 7.1 billion, by 2012. China has currently a fleet of 25 supertankers, which can deliver less than 20 percent of its total import. After completion of these tankers, they would have the capacity to deliver about half of projected imports by about 2025.

May 16 “The Chino-Kazkh Water Dispute” (China Brief, the Jamestown Foundation, May 16, 2007)

Sebastien Peyrouse, Fellow at Wilson Center in Washington, DC., says in his article entitled “Flowing Downstream: The Sino-Kazakh Water Dispute” that within the current Sino-Central Asian rapprochement, the issue over water rights and management has become an important factor in regional cooperation, but also a source of increasing contention.

The key points are summarized below: Kazakhstan and China share some 20 transboundary rivers. Two of Kazakhstan's main rivers, the Ili and the Irtysh, originate in China, the former in the Tian-Shan Mountains and the latter in the Chinese Altay Mountains. China has recently extracted increasing amounts of water from upstream of both rivers. Such extractions have adversely affected Kazakhstan's agricultural and industrial development and could even influence regions as far away as Siberia, since the Irtysh is the main tributary of the Ob River, which traverses the Omsk region.

This issue has been discussed in Kazakhstan for several weeks before Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting to be held in Bishkek, Kyrgystan in August 2007. Looking from the rapidly developing relations between the two countries, Sebastien Peyrouse regards both countries can find some solution acceptable to both parties.

May 23 “East Africa brings a sign of oil and gas development boom” (International Herald Tribune, May 23, 2007)

According to International Herald Tribune dated May 23, oil companies, both western and Asian, are hunting in earnest for oil and gas in East Africa, a still largely under-explored region. The summary of its article is as follows:

- (1) Still, even at this early stage, oil has recently been found in Uganda and in Madagascar. Gas has been discovered in Tanzania and Ethiopia. Oil production is rising steadily in Sudan.
- (2) Experimental drilling are proceeding steadily in Kenya, Mozambique, the semi-autonomous Somali province of Puntland, and in the waters surrounding the Seychelles. International oil giants including Royal Dutch Shell are showing a high interest in the shores of Zanziba.
- (3) So far, about US\$ 500 million is being spent on research but so far only about 479 wells have been drilled from Eritrea to Cape Town including Madagascar, compared with as many as 30,000 in northern and western Africa.

May 29 “China builds large container ship” (Shiptalk, May 29, 2007)

Hudong-Zhonghua Shipbuilding Co. Ltd, a subsidiary of China Shipbuilding Group Corporation, built a container ship capable of carrying 8,530 TEU's, making China the fourth country in the world capable of creating such container ships after South Korea, Japan and Denmark. It is one of the five 8,530-TEU.S.hips the company is building. The company will also build four such ships for Greek shipping company.

2. Intelligence Assessment

2.1 U.S. Defense Department Report on Chinese Military Power 2007

On May 25, U.S. Defense Department published an Annual Report to Congress on Military Power of the People's Republic of China 2007 (hereafter mentioned as report)¹. This is the sixth report since George W. Bush came into power. The report says, "The expanding military capabilities of China's armed forces are a major factor in changing East Asian military balances; China's continued pursuit of area denial and anti-access strategies is expanding from the traditional land, air, and sea dimensions of the modern battlefield to include space and cyber-space; Actual Chinese defense expenditures remain far above officially disclosed figures." The U.S. pointing out, the report continues "This lack of transparency in China's military affairs will naturally and understandably prompt international responses that hedge against the unknown." The report has the content of keeping an eye on the movement of the Chinese military power that still lacks transparency. Following are the major characteristics of the report viewed from the areas of interest in this monthly report.

1. Military balance in front of Taiwan

China's focus of strengthening military power is, in the near term, on preparation for military capabilities to stand against the contingencies in the Taiwan Strait, bearing in mind the possibility of U.S. intervention.

According to the report, what is distinctive in front of Taiwan is a continued, rapid expansion of missile forces. By October 2006, China had deployed roughly 900 (roughly 710 to 790 in the 2006 edition) mobile CSS-6 and CSS-7 short-range ballistic missiles opposite Taiwan, expanding at a rate of more than 100 missiles per year. Newer versions of these missiles have improved range and accuracy. As for airpower, China has more than 700 combat aircraft based within an un-refueled operational range of Taiwan, which is the same as last year. Taiwan has 330 combat aircraft. As for naval power, China has a large fleet that includes 72 principal combatants, 58 submarines, some 50 medium and heavy amphibious U.S. lift ships, and about 41 coastal missile patrol craft. Two-thirds of these naval ships are deployed in East and South Sea Fleets, which directly stand in front of Taiwan Navy. On the other hand, the Taiwan Navy has 26 principal combatants, 4 submarines, 16 amphibious lift ships, and 50 coastal missile patrol craft.

The trend of military balance of two coasts in the Taiwan Strait is seriously related to the security of sea lane of Japan. As for the cross-Strait military balance, the report assesses, as the previous 2006 edition estimated, that, as a result of China's continuous economic growth, diplomatic offensive, and the expansion of military power above-mentioned, it "is shifting in the

¹ ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS Military Power of the People's Republic of China 2007; <http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/pdfs/070523-China-Military-Power-final.pdf>

mainland's favor." However, the report, like the previous one, regards China is deterred on multiple levels from taking military action against Taiwan. First, China does not yet possess the military capability to accomplish with confidence its political objectives on the island, particularly when confronted with prospect of U.S. intervention.

2. Area Denial/Anti-access Strategy² and Development of Power Projection Capability

Development of China's air and naval power is, in the long-term, showing the trend of expanding beyond Taiwan. According to the report, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) appears engaged in a sustained effort to develop the capability to interdict, at long ranges, aircraft carrier and expeditionary strike groups that might deploy to the western Pacific. Increasingly, China's area denial/anti-access forces overlap, providing multiple layers of offensive systems, utilizing the sea, air, and space. According to the report, Chinese aim of the hour in this strategy is seeking the capacity to hold surface ships at risk through a layered defense that reaches out to the "second island chain." As the edition in 2006, the report says China's C4ISR, including space-based and over-the-horizon sensors, could enable Beijing to identify, track and target military activities deep into the western Pacific Ocean.

In October 2006, a PLA Navy *Song*-class diesel-electric submarine broached the surface in close proximity to the USS *Kitty Hawk* aircraft carrier in waters near Japan. This incident demonstrated the importance of long-standing U.S. efforts to improve the safety of U.S. and Chinese military air and maritime assets operating near each other. At the same time, this incident clearly brought out how the confrontation structure between the U.S. naval Forces centering on aircraft carrier and PLA Naval Forces is intensifying in the Pacific, as China implements its area denial and anti-access strategy.

As for area denial and anti-access strategy, the report is taking the recent expansion of Chinese surface ships and submarines with interest. Also, it takes note of the fact that China is enhancing global shipbuilding capabilities that support an expansion of its naval forces as follows:

- (1) China received the second of two Russian made *Sovremennyy II* guided missile destroyers (DDG) in late 2006. These DDGs are fitted with anti-ship cruise missiles (ASCMs) and wide-area air defense systems that feature qualitative improvements over the earlier *Sovremennyy*-class DDGs China purchased from Russia.
- (2) China is building and testing second-generation nuclear submarines with the *Jin*-class (Type 094) nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine and the *Shang*-class (Type 093) nuclear-powered attack submarine, which began sea trials in 2005.
- (3) China took delivery of two *Kilo*-class submarines from Russia, completing a contract for eight

² On China's Area Denial/Anti-access Strategy, see *Entering the Dragon's Lair: Chinese Antiaccess Strategies and Their Implications for the United States*, The RAND Corporation, March 2007. The report is available on Internet at ; http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2007/RAND_MG524.pdf

signed in 2002. China operates twelve *Kilos*, the newest of which are equipped with the supersonic SS-N-27B ASCM, and wire-guided and wake-homing torpedoes.

- (4) The PLA Navy's newest ship, the *Luzhou* class (Type 051C) DDG is designed for anti-air warfare. It will be equipped with the Russian SA-N-20 SAM system. The SA-N-20 more than doubles the range of current PLA Navy air defense systems marking a significant improvement in China's ship-borne air defense capability.
- (5) The *Luzhou*-class DDG complements ongoing developments of the *Luyang I* (Type 052B) and *Luyang II* (Type 052C) DDGs. The *Luyang I* is fitted with the Russian SA-N-7B SAM and the YJ-83 ASCM. The *Luyang II* is fitted with an air defense system based on the indigenous HHQ-9 SAM.
- (6) In 2006, China began producing its first guided missile frigate (FFG), the *Jiangkai II* (Type 054A). The *Jiangkai II* will be fitted with the medium range HHQ-16, a vertically launched naval surface-to-air missile currently in development.

In the process of such an expansion of China's naval power, attention is paid to when China will have an aircraft carrier. As reported in the last edition, the report describes the trend of Chinese development of the aircraft carrier in the boxed column in the article. Its content is not so different from the previous edition. As for the ex-Soviet carrier *Varyag* which is now moored at Dalian port, the PLA's ultimate intentions for the *Varyag* remain unclear, even though they have painted it in PLA Navy marking, and they are interested in Russian Su-33 carrier aircraft. Based on this, as reported in the 2006 edition, a number of possibilities exist: (1) turning it into an operational aircraft carrier, (2) a training or transitional platform, or (3) a floating theme park – its originally-stated purpose. Regardless of Beijing's final objective for the ex-*Varyag*, PLA Navy can study the ship's structural design, which could eventually assist China in creating its own carrier program. Some analysts in the U.S. predict that China could have an operational carrier by the end of the 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015); others assess the earliest it could deploy an operational aircraft carrier is 2020 or beyond.

The aircraft carrier is regarded to be an essential platform if the PLA Navy is to grow into real ocean-going navy with sea lane defense capability over the distance. Recently several reports are seen over the Chinese development of an aircraft carrier (See OPRF monthly of March 2007 for an example). However, the fact that no difference has observed in the descriptions in the U.S. Defense Department reports for the past two years suggests China has not yet embarked on the full development of the aircraft carrier.

2.2 Transformation of Japan and U.S. Alliance: Outline of the Security Consultative Committee and its Evaluation

On April 27, 2007, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited the United States for the first time after his inauguration and met U.S. President George W. Bush, confirmed “irreplaceable alliance” and

agreed to deepen further their relations between Japan and the United States. After that, on May 1, the Security Consultative Committee (SCC) by the minister in charge of Foreign and Defense matters of the governments of Japan and the United States (so-called two-plus-two) was held. The SCC issued the joint statement on transformation and strengthening of Japan and the United States Alliance responding to a changing security environment, “Alliance Transformation: Advancing United States-Japan Security and Defense Cooperation.”³ Following are the characteristics and evaluation of the statement.

1. Implementation of “Roadmap” and transformation of the alliance”

In the two-plus-two meeting at this time, regarding the “Roadmap” issued in May 2006, the SCC members confirmed its working process for a year and recognized the importance of steady implementation in accordance with the agreement between Japan and the United States. In particular, Cabinet ministers reconfirmed the recognition that completion of U.S. Force’s Futema Replacement Facilities by 2014 is the key to success of reorganization of the U.S. Forces based in Okinawa. The Japanese side explained about the submission to the Diet of legislation for special measures on reorganization of the U.S. Forces in Japan and so forth. Regarding relocation of the 3rd Marines Expeditionary Forces (MEF) personnel from Okinawa to Guam, the Japanese side expressed to proceed steadily under the cooperation of both countries, as there still exist many problems toward the completion of 2014, to which the U.S. side agreed. The United States requested an implementation of concrete procedures including budgeting measures, suggesting their great expectation toward Japan.

The Cabinet ministers confirmed the development of roles, missions, and capabilities in line with concept about the transformation of the alliance shown in the documents approved by SCC in October 2005, “Japan-U.S. Alliance: Transformation and Realignment for the Future,” which indicates the initiatives about the roles, missions, and capabilities of both the Japanese Self-Defense Force and the U.S. Military Forces.

In order to make the “Transformation of Alliance” more secured, it is necessary to promote the posture, in which both the Japanese Self-Defense Force and U.S. Military Forces can take steadily the joint actions based upon their roles, missions, and capabilities, as emphasized in the common documents. In addition, it is also essential to improve the interoperability between the two parties. To put it into practice, a subject will be an establishment of smooth joint operations by means of making joint operational planning between the two nations, conducting joint trainings, and confirming the effectiveness of operational plans, and supplementary corrections, and others.

2. Clarification of extended deterrence to Japan

The joint document this time reconfirms the U.S. defense commitment to Japan, including “nuclear umbrella” to Japan in clear expressions. Expressing the U.S. “extended deterrence” “will

³ Joint Statement ; <http://www.mod.go.jp/j/news/youjin/2007/05/01e.html>

support the defense of Japan and regional security”, the document first stresses the significance that the U.S. deterrence will perform for the defense of Japan. Furthermore, the U.S. is mortgaging the credibility of its deterrence capability by “nuclear umbrella” in an explicit expression that “all kinds of U.S. military power (including nuclear and non-nuclear strike capabilities and defense capabilities).” In its background is regarded to be an aim of appeasing the doubt of credibility of U.S. “nuclear umbrella” and Japanese independent nuclear armament discussions that escalated after North Korea’s nuclear experiments in 2006. Additionally, it may also be intended to deny the Japanese anxiety that “concerning the North Korean nuclear problems, the U.S. is regarding the non-proliferation of nuclear weapon of not transferring nuclear weapons and technology to the third countries more important, and Washington may have given up the denuclearization of North Korea that directly influences upon Japan,” while reconfirming “the U.S. commitment of defense of Japan” again in clear expression. Hereafter, in order to mortgage the credibility of “U.S. commitment to nuclear umbrella”, concrete checking-works covering operation procedures and supply and maintenance of means of delivering nuclear weapons by defense experts of the U.S. and Japan need to be implemented. Through this process, further discussion of concrete policy disregarding an idealism or an empty theory, which includes whether or not the Japanese three non-nuclear principles, in particular, “introduction” among them is consistent with Japan’s policy of reliance on U.S. nuclear deterrence will be required.

3. Enhancing BMD (Ballistic Missile Defense) System Capabilities and Operational Cooperation

Two-plus-two discussed on advances of BMD cooperation and its directions in future after the importance of BMD was emphasized at the top meeting of Japan and the United States in November 2006 and April 2006. According to the joint document, as part of the improvement BMD system, they have confirmed the following key advances: The operational deployment of a U.S. X-Band radar system to Aomori Prefecture, the operational deployment of a U.S. PAC-3 battalion to Kadena Air Base, deployment and continuing addition of U.S. naval vessels armed with SM-3 system, initiation of advanced deployment of PAC-3 by Air Self Defense Force from March 2007 to its completion in early 2010, and advanced reconfiguration of Maritime Self Defense Force Aegis class destroyers to be installed with SM-3 system. Also, for the operational cooperation for the BDM deployed, they have confirmed close coordination between the two parties in the fields of tactics, operations, and strategy. In concrete manners, it includes coordination at the bilateral joint operations coordination center at Yokota Airbase, direct and real time routine sharing of BMD and related operational information, development of a bilateral common operational picture, establishment of a comprehensive information-sharing roadmap to identify broader operational information and data to be shared. In future close cooperation between U.S. and Japan in the soft area to operate effectively the established system (hard) will be important. The establishment of roadmap for information sharing is regarded to identify the target of sharing information in order to coordinate the constitutional interpretation on

“integration with use of force” through bilateral sharing of target information including the ballistic missiles.

4. Information cooperation and expansion and development of information sharing

At two-plus-two meeting, in order to respond effectively on the matters of new security, the Cabinet ministers recognized an importance of information cooperation and expansion and development of sharing information, and agreed to strengthen the mechanism for the protection of classified information. In order to facilitate information exchange and to establish the common basis of intelligence and security which contributes to sharing of information as well as defense procurement program and operational intelligence, the members have virtually agreed to conclude a “General security of Military information Agreement (GSOMIA) (within 2007). GSOMIA is an agreement that the U.S. has been concluding with over 60 countries including NATO countries, Republic of Korea (ROK), and Israel to prevent leakage of military information. It requires the concluding countries of the same degree of security protection as well as providing no information to third parties without an approval of the United States (Third party rule). The United States has asked Japan to conclude GSOMIA since 2005.

For Japan, under the deplorable affairs including information leakage by taking out of information on the Aegis ships and file exchanging soft, recovery of confidence over information security for strengthening the alliance has become an imminent issue. The United States is aware that Japan needs a conclusive law for protection of information to effectively implement GSOMIA. During the meeting with Japanese Defense Minister Fumio Kyuma on April 30, pointing out information security is a matter of not only the Japanese Defense Ministry but also the Japanese government, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gate emphasized a necessity of Japanese response to it as a national. Therefore, it is expected that the U.S. will ask Japan to stipulate the domestic law on security protection equivalent to that of other countries concluding the GSOMIA. Japan is already taking actions for the protection of classified defense information, and is accelerating an integration of U.S. and Japan in the area of information as well as strengthening a system of information control. Namely, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe emphasized “strengthening of information functions in the government” at his policy speech in the Diet in January 2007. The implementation of information security is accelerating as follows: At the end of April the “Session of strengthening cabinet functions on national security” proposed an early enactment of “law specifying severe punishment” for security matters as a whole. Also, at the end of year 2006, “Session promoting the counter-intelligence” consisting of members from the ministries and agencies concerned was established. For setting up the domestic law, discussion is expected to be divided over the scope of its application on whether or not it should be a conclusive secret protection law or it should limit its application to the parts of governmental departments and agencies and the private corporations related GSOMIA, which are required to take care of the classified documents. Also, the focus of discussion will be the relations between the law of protection of private information and confirmation work on security stipulating the standard of security clearance of persons who engage in information in accordance with the importance of

information required by the United States. On the other hand, anxiety is pointed out that strengthening of security may restrict the peoples' right to know. Therefore, over the enactment of law, it is necessary to keep balance between people's right to know as well as protection of fundamental rights and needs of the national security and national interests.

5. Establishment of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) working group

Also, in case Japan be attacked by the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), it is important that for the defense of Japan both Japanese Self Defense Force and the U.S. Forces will coordinate with each other, maintaining operational capabilities. For this purpose, an establishment of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) working group was stipulated in the joint document in order to steadily develop combat readiness against CBRN weapons and mutual operability of both the Japanese Self Defense and the U.S. Forces. Study for the measures against terrorism by using WMD will lead to building nations strong in crisis, which is epoch-making in itself. It is an area, where the global study was late in the Japan's Defense Ministry. So then, the products of studies are expected.

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