

OPRF MARINT Monthly Report

September 2007



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

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

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Major Events in September 2007

Security: The “Singapore Meeting on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore: Enhancing Safety, Security and Environmental Protection,” was held in Singapore between 4 and 6 September 2007. In the meeting “Co-operative Mechanism” that sets out how to get the user States and industry stakeholders involved in efforts to ensure navigational safety and environmental protection of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore was materialized. The Nippon Foundation stated that it is prepared to contribute to the “Aids to Navigation Fund” which is established under the “Co-operative Mechanism.”

On 25th, the Philippine Navy has announced it will set up 17 Coast Watch stations in order to monitor and guard the country's southern sea borders against militant groups and transnational terrorists.

According to the report dated 25th, the Indonesian Navy will soon build a marines infantry brigade in Pinrang district, South Sulawesi, to strengthen security in the Makassar Strait known as Indonesian Islands Waterway II.

Military: Codenamed “Malabar-2007”, the multinational joint exercise involving Australia, Japan and Singapore, in addition to the United States and India, was commenced between 4 and 9 September. Malabar has been conducted 13 times. However, this year the traditional two-nation exercise between the U.S. and Indian navies was expanded to involve more than two participants for the first time.

China's Peoples Daily (Online) inserted photographs of China's *Shang*-class (Type 093) nuclear attack submarine (SSN) in its issue dated September 18.

On 27th, the Chinese naval task force consisting of *Guangzhou* missile destroyer and *Weishanhu* supply ship successfully conducted night replenishment operation in a sea area of the Mediterranean after wrapping up the visit of four European countries.

Diplomacy and International relations: On September 12, Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesman Le Dzung has protested against Taiwan's plan to resume building infrastructure facilities on the Truong Sa (Spratly) archipelago.

On 14th, Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller said he had sent invitations to the foreign ministers of Canada, the United States, Norway and Russia to a related five-country conference in 2008 to discuss their claims to the North Pole. The proposed meeting is said to be held May 27 to 29 in Ilulissat in Greenland. (As for rivalry of the countries concerned over the North Pole, see 2.Intelligence Assessment in this report.)

On September 27, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the United States Senate held a public hearing on accession to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and ratification of the Agreement. At the first hearing session, Deputy Secretaries of the Department of States and Department of Defense and Vice Chief of Naval Operations appealed

respectively from their positions for an approval of early ratification of the UNCLOS. By the presidential statement on June 15, President George W. Bush was asking for the approval of ratification of the UNCLOS at the first session of the 110th congress by the end of 2007.

Shipping, Resources, Environment and Miscellaneous: On September 3, the biggest construction work of expanding the width of Panama Canal started since it opened 93 years ago. Panamanian President Martin Torrijos celebrated the start of construction on two wider sets of locks being added to both sides of the canal. The new locks are expected to be ready for use between 2014 and 2015.

On September 14, the European Space Agency (ESA) reported the area covered by sea ice in the Arctic has shrunk to its lowest level, opening up the Northwest Passage – a long-sought short cut between Europe and Asia that has been historically impassable. It is the first time since satellite measurements began nearly 30 years ago.

On 27th, the governor of the Arkhangelsk Region said Russia started the construction of the floating nuclear power plant (NPP) with 70 megawatts (MW) capacity in Severodvinsk in April 2007, and it should be completed by 2010. The world's first floating NPP is most likely to operate in Severodvinsk in 2011. Russia is expected to build another six NPPs of its kind within a decade.

1. Information Digest

1.1 Security

September 4-6 “Singapore Meeting on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore held” (International Maritime Organization, Press Briefing, September 18, 2007 and other sources)

The “Singapore Meeting on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore: Enhancing Safety, Security and Environmental Protection,” a meeting jointly convened by Singapore and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), was held in Singapore between 4 and 6 September 2007.

Mr. Raymond Lim, Minister for Transport, Singapore, emphasized the following points in his speech at the opening session. (a) This meeting is part of the IMO’s “Protection of Vital Shipping Lanes” initiative. Conceived by the IMO in 2004, this initiative aims to promote a comprehensive approach to addressing security, safety and pollution control in critical sea-lanes around the world. In its first series of meetings under its initiative, the IMO has identified the Straits of Malacca and Singapore as the subject. (b) The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) also lays down important guidelines for co-operation among user States and coastal States in the maintenance of straits used for international navigation. Article 43 of the UNCLOS states that user States and States bordering a strait should by agreement cooperate in “the establishment and maintenance in a strait of necessary navigational and safety aids or other improvements in aid of international navigation,” as well as for “the prevention, reduction and control of pollution from ships.” In this meeting, the littoral States will be presenting the details of a “Co-operative Mechanism” that sets out how the littoral States will involve user States and industry stakeholders in efforts to ensure navigational safety and environmental protection of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. This “Co-operative Mechanism” is the first formal representation of Article 43 of the UNCLOS, which adds a new dimension in Straits cooperation. (Singapore Government Media Release, September 4, 2007)

The IMO press briefing on September 18 point out as the products of the conference as follows:

- (1) The Singapore Meeting was a direct outcome of the initiative of the IMO Council to consider the protection of vital shipping lanes such as the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.
- (2) The “Co-operative Mechanism” will provide a regular platform for dialogue between the littoral States, user States and users of the Straits, as well as a structured framework for co-operation with the international community. It represents the successful establishment, for the first time ever, of the type of co-operative mechanism for the management of international straits envisaged in Article 43 of the UNCLOS. It will enable the three littoral States, user States and users of the Straits to exchange views, jointly undertake projects and make voluntary monetary contributions through the following three components: (a) a forum for regular dialogue; (b) a committee to coordinate and manage specific projects; and (c) a fund to receive and manage financial contributions.

- (3) The “Singapore Statement” adopted at the meeting confirmed the consensus among the participants that collective efforts were needed to enhance navigational safety and environmental protection in the Straits and expressed support and encouragement for the “Co-operative Mechanism.”
- (4) The Nippon Foundation (NF) stated that it is prepared to contribute to the “Aids to Navigation Fund” which is established under the “Co-operative Mechanism” up to a third of the costs associated with the funding of the maintenance and repair of the navigational aid facilities in the Straits during the initial five-year period, until the necessary funds have been collected from voluntary contributions from the users of the waterway.

IMO Press Briefing: <http://www.imo.org/>

As for the aids from the NF, Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of the NF, stated in his speech entitled “A Cooperation Mechanism for Future of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore” on September 5 as follows. (Masazumi Nagamitsu, Executive Director of the NF, spoke on behalf of its chairman.) “The NF has considered the question and the difficulties associated with the financing of the ‘Aids to Navigation Fund’ at the initial stages, and I have the great pleasure to declare before you today that the NF is prepared to contribute to the ‘Aids to Navigation Fund’ up to a third of the costs associated with the funding of the maintenance and repair of the aids to navigation during the initial five-year period, until the ‘Aids to Navigation Fund’ collects the necessary funds from voluntary contributions from around the world.”

Speech of Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of the NF:

<http://www.nippon-foundation.or.jp/eng/press/20070907IMOSingaporeMeeting.html>

September 5-7 “First Asia Pacific Region Military Intelligence Chiefs Conference held” (AFP, September 6, 2007)

The first meeting of the top military intelligence chiefs from the 19 nations in the Asia Pacific region was held in Kuala Lumpur on September 5. The three-day Asia Pacific Intelligence Chiefs Conference was co-sponsored by the United States and Malaysia to discuss terrorism, maritime security and disaster relief for the first time. Attending the talks were representatives from Australia, Bangladesh, Britain, Brunei, Cambodia, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam. China was invited but opted out at the last minute without giving any reason.

September 25 “Indonesian Navy prevents hijacking of tanker” (The Jakarta Post, September 26, 2007)

The Indonesian Navy has prevented a hijacking attempt by a group of pirates that boarded *Kraton* tanker, which was transporting 2,294 tons of cooking oil. The captain of the tanker told *The Jakarta Post* on September 25th that the tanker was attacked by a group of 14 pirates at the tip of the Musi River on 22nd while it was en route to Cilacap in Central Java (Indian Ocean-side) after departing from Palembang, South Sumatra. A group of people in a small boat approached

the tanker and climbed on board waving pistols. The captain immediately informed Teluk Bayut port's administration about the incident. Taking over the tanker, the pirates steered the tanker in the direction of Malaysia or Singapore. All crew members, including captain, were tied up. Indonesia Navy intercepted a tanker crossing the Malacca strait on 24th. According to Commander of the Navy's West Fleet Commodore Denny Novend, the Navy deployed six of its warships, which intentionally hit the tanker to frighten the pirates, and intercepted the vessel without causing any casualties to the crew. The pirates belong to a group, whose headquarters is in Palembang, and they were equipped with a 200 horsepower speedboat and a number of pistols and sharp weapons. The Navy will thoroughly investigate this incident. Head of the Navy's information section said the attack was the first piracy attempt foiled by the Navy this year.

September 25 “Philippines to build Coast Watch stations in southern borders” (Inquirer Net, September 25, 2007)

The Philippine Navy (PN) has announced it will set up 17 Coast Watch stations in order to monitor and guard the country's southern sea borders against militant groups and transnational terrorists. The project, which will cost an estimated 376 million US dollars, will see the Coast Watch stations encircle the southern part of the country, from Palawan to Davao province (Mindanao), an area where the activities of such groups as Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Abu Sayyaf, and Indonesia's Jemaah Islamiyah have been noted. As part of the plan, the PN will patrol the area using all kinds of patrol vessels.

September 25 “France to send warship off Somalia to deter piracy” (AFP, September 25, 2007)

French President Nicolas Sarkozy said on September 25 that his country was prepared to send a warship off Somalia to protect delivery of international food aid provided by the World Food Program to Somalia from attacks by pirates. Saying the war ship would be dispatched for a period of two months, Sarkozy called on other countries to join the initiative.

September 27 “Indonesia To Build Marines Infantry Brigade In S Sulawesi (Antara News, September 27, 2007)

The Indonesian Navy will soon build a marines infantry brigade in Pinrang district, South Sulawesi, to strengthen security in the Makassar Strait known as Indonesian Islands Waterway II. The marine infantry brigade will be the second of its kind after the one in Makassar, the capital of South Sulawesi province. The brigade will be built as soon as possible, depending on adjusting the number of personnel and preparedness of the district administration. “The Makassar Strait is passed through by many international ships. So we must secure the waters well. Otherwise, our image in the eyes of the international community will be bad,” Naval Chief of Staff Admiral Slamet Soebijanto said.

1.2 Military

September 2 “India is interested in acquiring 2nd nuclear sub” (Express India, September 2, 2007)

According to Indian media, India is interested in acquiring a second *Akula-II* class nuclear submarine (SSN), from Russia. In a meeting on August 27 with senior Russian officials, including First Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov, Indian National Security Advisor M.K. Narayanan reportedly showed his expectations that the issue on a lease will be discussed at the India-Russia summit due to take place in December 2007. (As for the report on a lease of the first *Akula-II*, see OPRF MARINT Monthly Report, August 2007.)

September 2 “China submits information on military expenditures to U.N.” (International Herald Tribune, September 2, 2007)

On September 2, China announced that it would submit information about its military budget and imports and exports of conventional weapons to the United Nations (U.N.). It is clear that this policy was ostensibly intended to calm fears about China’s rapidly expanding military power with low transparency. The aim of offering more information to the U.N. appears to reflect China’s sensitivity to growing pressure from the United States as well as Asian countries, including Japan and Australia, who have called on Beijing to increase transparency.

September 4-9 “Multilateral Joint Military Exercise, Malabar-2007 begins” (CNSNews.com, September 5, 2007 and other sources)

Codenamed “Malabar-2007”, the multinational joint exercise involving Australia, Japan and Singapore, in addition to the United States and India, was commenced between 4 and 9 September. Malabar, which has traditionally been an exercise between the U.S. and Indian navies, has been conducted 13 times. However, this year it has been expanded to involve more than two participants for the first time. The maneuver aims to improve interoperability among the five participating countries, allowing for more effective response to maritime threats including proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) as well as transnational challenges including natural disaster. The action is centered in the Bay of Bengal, stretching from Visakhapatnam on the eastern seaboard to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands that guard the approaches to the strategic Straits of Malacca.

The naval forces of the countries participating in the exercises are as follows. U.S.: 13 warships, including the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS *Nimitz*, the conventionally powered carrier USS *Kitty Hawk*, a nuclear submarine, two guided-missile cruisers and six guided-missile destroyers, and aircraft, India: seven warships, including the aircraft carrier INS *Viraat*, and aircraft, Australia: a frigate and a tanker, Japan: two destroyers (the *Ohsumi* and the *Yudachi*), and two P-3C’s, and Singapore: a frigate.

September 5 “Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mitsuo Sakaba, expresses concern over Indonesian submarine force buildup-program” (The Sydney Morning Herald, September 6, 2007)

Under financial assistance provided by Russia, Indonesia is to buy two Russian *Kilo*-class submarines, 22 helicopters and 20 tanks at a cost of one billion US dollars. Apart from this, Jakarta has plans to buy up to another eight of the conventionally powered submarines. As for the purchase, the spokesman for Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mitsuo Sakaba, expressed his concern over a drastic increase of Indonesia's submarine force in Sydney on September 5. He said, “Any country should explain their intentions about the plan of such a big deal of arms purchasing program. What is important is transparency.” The Indonesian Navy has a plan to transform from a so-called “brown water” or coastal navy to become a “green water” navy of some 220 vessels in two independent fleets capable of operating regionally.

September 5 “India Defense Ministry releases Defense Procurement Program” (Defense-aerospace, September 6, 2007)

On September 5, Indian Defense Ministry has released its current status on the national defense procurement plan. According to the plan, construction on the lead unit of *Scorpene*-class submarine, which started in December 2006, is on track as the first delivery is scheduled for December 2012, with another submarine being delivered each year until 2017. Regarding the construction of the Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC), it is on schedule, with its launch due in 2010. However, final delivery of the IAC may be delayed from the initial forecast of 2012. As for the Brahmos supersonic cruise missile, which can be launched from submarine, it is awaiting a platform to be identified soon.

September 10 “Chinese warships depart for joint exercises with Australia, New Zealand Navies” (Xinhua, September 10, 2007)

On September 10, two Chinese warships departed from Qingdao to join Australia and New Zealand navies in the first maritime exercises to be staged by the three countries. The two Chinese warships are guided missile destroyer *Harbin* and fuel tanker *Hongze Lake*. The three navies will drill on communications, fleet formation, at-sea replenishment, and search-and-rescue during the two-day exercise in the areas off Sydney. (The two Chinese warships arrived at Sydney on September 28.)

September 17 “Indonesia Navy still needs 262 warships” (Antara News, September 18, 2007)

According to Indonesian Navy Chief of Staff Admiral Slamet Soebijanto on September 17, Indonesia needs a total of 376 warships for defending and maintaining security of the country which consists of 17 thousands of islands, large and small. Therefore, the Indonesia Navy is still in need of another 262 warships, in addition to around 114 warships of different types it has at present.

September 18 “China publishes photos of Type 093 nuclear attack submarine” (People’s Daily Online, September 18, 2007)

China’s Peoples Daily (Online) inserted photographs of China’s *Shang*-class (Type 093) nuclear attack submarine (SSN) in its issue dated September 18. According to the online, models and some hazy photographs of the Type 093 class were on display in an exhibition at the Military Museum of the Chinese People's Revolution during the 80th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) in late July. Later, Modern Ships Magazine published the first clear photo of one of the submarines in August.

Source: People’s Daily Online, September 18, 2007
<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90786/6265418.html>

China's *Shang*-class nuclear submarine (Type 093)

The Type 093 is China's second generation SSN, which will replace five first generation *Han*-class attack submarines (Type 091) - obsolete and tremendously noisy – that were launched between 1970s and 1990s. Type 093 began construction in the mid-1990s, and two were launched in 2002 and 2003 respectively. Type 093 nuclear submarine is known as the *Shang*-class nuclear submarine in Western countries.

September 21 “Loss of U.S. military prestige in the Pacific” (International Herald Tribune, September 21, 2007)

Robert D. Kaplan, a correspondent for *The Atlantic*, and a visiting professor at the United States Naval Academy, has reported in the U.S. journal: “The ultimate strategic effect of the Iraq war has been to hasten the arrival of the ‘Asian Century.’” The points are summarized as follows.

- (1) While the American government has been occupied in Iraq, and our European allies continue to be uninterested in their defense programs, Asian countries, in particular, China, India, Japan and South Korea have been quietly modernizing or enlarging military forces. Under these circumstances, the Pacific Ocean which the United States has nearly dominated for 60

years is no longer an “American Lake.”

- (2) China’s production and acquisition of submarines is now five times that of America’s. In addition, Beijing has focused on naval mines and ballistic missiles. The goal is “sea denial”: deterring American carrier strike groups from closing in on the Asian continent. Whether or not China ever has a motive to challenge America, it will increasingly have the capacity to do so. On the other hand, India is regarded to become the third-largest in the world in a few years as it becomes more active throughout the Indian Ocean, from the Mozambique Channel to the Strait of Malacca.
- (3) The twin trends of a rising Asia and a politically crumbling Middle East will most likely lead to a naval emphasis on the Indian Ocean and its surrounding seas, the sites of the choke points of world commerce - the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf, the Bab el Mandeb at the mouth of the Red Sea, and Malacca strait.

September 24 “India’s Maritime Military Strategy stresses importance of submarine launched nuclear power” (The Times of India, September 24, 2007)

The Indian newspaper, *The Times of India*, dated September 24 introduced in its article on a summary of the Navy’s new strategy document titled “Freedom to Use the Seas: India’s Maritime Military Strategy (IMMS)” as follows.

- (1) The IMMS emphasizes that only nuclear-powered submarines armed with nuclear-tipped missiles (SSBN) can provide real credibility to India’s strategic deterrence posture, which revolves around the no-first use (NFU) policy. India has no submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM), the most important pillar that constitutes a “credible nuclear triad.” The IMMS points out, “Our NFU policy amply illustrates India’s intentions of using the nuclear deterrent only as a retaliatory measure of last resort. The SLBM enables a survivable second-strike capability and is, therefore, a critical enabler for attaining credibility to NFU policy.”
- (2) India is now building an indigenous SSBN under the “advanced technology vessel (ATV)” program at Vishakapatnam on the east coast. But even if an *Akula-II* nuclear submarine which is to be leased from Russia becomes operational by 2008, the first of the five ATVs to be built will become fully-operational only by 2010 at the earliest. Moreover, it will take another three-four years for an integrated SLBM or SLCM (Submarine-launched cruise missile) to be ready. (For reference, see OPRP MMARINT Monthly Report, August 2007.)

September 27 “Chinese Navy Successfully Conducts Night Replenishment In The Mediterranean” (China Military Online, September 30, 2007)

On 27th, the Chinese naval task force consisting of *Guangzhou* missile destroyer and *Weishanhu* supply ship successfully conducted night replenishment operation in a sea area of the Mediterranean after wrapping up the visit of four European countries. The night supply capacity is an important factor that has a bearing on the survival and continuous fighting capacities of the ships. Two ships conducted replenishment of fuel and fresh water, while maintaining a space of 50 meters between them (with the same course and speed in abreast formation).

September 28 “Russian, U.S. Warships to Begin Exercise in the Sea of Japan” (Itar-Tass, September 29, 2007)

Russian and U.S. warships will begin a three-day joint exercise, “Pacific Eagle”, in the waters off Vladivostok on 28th. The exercise will engage two U.S. warships-- missile destroyer *Lassen* and mine countermeasures ship *Patriot*, while the Russian Pacific fleet will engage a big anti-submarine ship, a minesweeper, a navy aircraft, and an auxiliary vessel. In the exercise, they will train mine-sweeping, artillery fire, arrest of a violating vessel, and rescue of a shipwreck.

1.3 Diplomacy and International Relations

September 12 “Vietnam protests against Taiwan’s building plan on Spratly Islands” (VNA, September 13, 2007)

On September 12, Vietnam Foreign Ministry spokesman Le Dzung has protested against Taiwan’s plan to resume building infrastructure facilities on the Truong Sa (Spratly) archipelago. Le Dzung stressed, “Vietnam possesses adequate historical evidence and legal foundations to proclaim its sovereignty over the Hoang Sa (Paracels) and Truong Sa (Spratlys) archipelagos. All activities in the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos which are not approved by Vietnam are violations of Vietnam's sovereignty in these areas and are devoid of legal merit. Vietnam urges Taiwan to immediately desist from continuing with its plan as well as similar activities in the Truong Sa archipelago.”

Comments: The Yomiuri Shimbun dated September 9 reported that, as information from Taiwanese defense official, Taiwan is planning to build a military airfield in Itu Aba Island, which is summarized as follows. (a) Itu Aba Island is the sole island over which Taiwan has its sovereignty. Currently, Taiwan's coast guard mainly takes charge of the island's defense. (b) The 1,150-meter-long, 30-meter-wide runway is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year, with a total construction cost of about 21 million US dollars. It is planned to be used by C-130 transport planes and other aircraft.

September 14 “Denmark plans meeting with related countries over North Pole territorial rights” (The Canadian Press, September 14, 2007)

Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller said he sent invitations to the foreign ministers of Canada, the United States, Norway and Russia to a related five-country conference in 2008 to discuss their claims to the North Pole. A Danish local newspaper said the proposed meeting will be held May 27 to 29 in Ilulissat in Greenland.

The five countries are trying to assert sovereignty in the Arctic region, where the race heated up when Russia planted a tiny national flag under the North Pole in August. A U.S. study suggests as much as 25 per cent of the world's undiscovered oil and gas could be hidden in the

region. Canadian Foreign Affairs spokesman said no decision has been made about whether Ottawa will attend. He stressed that their position on Arctic sovereignty over their lands and waters is long-standing and based on historic right. (See 2. Intelligence Assessment in this report.)

 **Topic** **U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee holds public hearing on ratification of UNCLOS**

On September 27, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the United States (U.S.) Senate (Chairman Joseph Biden, Democrat) held a public hearing on accession to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and ratification of the Agreement. At the first hearing session, Deputy Secretaries of the Department of States and Department of Defense and Vice Chief of Naval Operations appealed respectively from their positions for an approval of early ratification of the UNCLOS. (The next public hearing session will be held on October 4 by calling as the witnesses the experts and representatives from the shipping circles.)

By the presidential statement on June 15, President George W. Bush was asking for the approval of ratification of the UNCLOS at the first session of the 110th congress by the end of 2007. Responding to this statement, Chairman Joseph Biden and Richard G. Lugar, a leading member of the Republican Party of the Committee of Foreign Relations U.S. Senate, issued a joint statement of close cooperation for a swift approval of the agreement. (For reference, see OPRF MARINT Monthly Report June 2007.) Also, on the occasion of a Russian expedition to the North Pole in August, discord is increasing among the countries concerned over the sovereignty of the North Pole. (For reference, see OPRF MARINT Monthly August 2007 and an analysis column in this monthly report.)

Following these issues, it is estimated that a swift approval of the ratification of the UNCLOS at the U.S. Senate is most likely to be implemented. Below are the points of testimonies of Deputy Secretaries of the Department of States and Department of Defense and Vice Chief of Naval Operations. (United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations HP, September 27, 2007)

1. Points of testimony of Deputy Secretary, Department of State John D. Negroponte

Deputy Secretary, Department of State John D. Negroponte explains the advantages that the U.S. would gain by joining the UNCLOS from the three sides of the national security, sovereignty and sustainability.

(1) Security

From the understanding that the U.S. is the world's foremost maritime power, and its security interests are intrinsically linked to freedom of navigation, Negroponte points out that the UNCLOS secures the rights needed for U.S. military ships and the commercial ships that support U.S. forces to meet national security requirements in four ways below: (a) by limiting coastal States' territorial seas -- within which they exercise the most sovereignty -- to 12 nautical miles; (b) by affording our military and commercial vessels and aircraft necessary passage rights through other countries' territorial seas and archipelagoes, as well as through straits used for international navigation (such as the critical right of submarines to transit submerged through such straits); (c) by setting forth maximum navigational rights and freedoms for our vessels and

aircraft in the exclusive economic zones of other countries and in the high seas; and (d) by affirming the authority of U.S. warships and government ships to board stateless vessels on the high seas, which is a critically important element of maritime security operations, counter-narcotic operations, and anti-proliferation efforts, including the Proliferation Security Initiative.

(2) Sovereignty

In this area, the sovereign rights of a coastal State over its continental shelf are regarded to be important. Referring to recent Russian expeditions to the Arctic and a submission to support its extension of the outer limit of the continental shelf by some countries led by Russia, Negroponte says, "Currently, as a non-party, the United States is not in a position to make a submission to extend the outer limit of the continental shelf in the Arctic or elsewhere." According to Negroponte, the United States has one of the largest continental shelves in the world; in the Arctic, for example, its shelf could run as far as 600 miles from the coastline. Moreover, in this area the sovereign right of a coastal State over its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) extending out to 200 nautical miles is regarded to be important.

(3) Environmental protection

In this area, the following points are emphasized. (a) The UNCLOS also concurs with the U.S. interests in world marine environment and its conservation and protection of natural resources. (b) The framework balances the interests of the coastal State in protection of the marine environment and its natural resources with the navigational rights and freedoms of all States. (c) The UNCLOS promotes the conservation of various marine resources. U.S. ocean resource-related industries strongly support U.S. accession to the UNCLOS.

After explaining these benefits, Negroponte answered a question why there is an urgent need to join now after the UNCLOS has been in force for thirteen years as follows. Pointing out that recently the provisions of the UNCLOS and the institutions established on them have become extremely important, he stressed it is necessary for the United States to secure the rights in the UNCLOS. Citing an example of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf which is charged with addressing the outer limits of the continental shelf, he said the commission had received nine submissions of the extension and has made recommendations on two of them, without the participation of a U.S. commissioner. He stressed the United States needs to join the commission to protect its interests. Negroponte also pointed out that the Part XI provisions regarding the "Deep Seabed" which the U.S. and business circles were against were modified in the 1994 Implementing Agreement, the International Seabed Authority is responsible for overseeing the control of mineral resources on the deep seabed based on free market economic principles, and the U.S. could become a member of the institution in accordance with the provisions.

Finally, as for why the U.S. has not joined the UNCLOS, citing for example the myths of thirteen items of UNCLOS including (a) UNCLOS limits the sovereignty of the U.S. and (b) The International Seabed Authority (ISA) has the power to regulate seven-tenths of the Earth's surface, Negroponte deepened the understanding of the senate members over the UNCLOS by

explaining the issues one by one, and appealed for a swift approval for U.S. accession to the UNCLOS.

Testimony of Deputy Secretary, Department of State John D. Negroponte:

<http://www.senate.gov/~foreign/testimony/2007/NegroponteTestimony070927.pdf>

2. Points of testimony of Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense Gordon England

Representing the Department of Defense, Deputy Secretary Gordon England appealed for a quick ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as follows.

- (1) Based on recognition that the United States (U.S.) is the world's foremost maritime power, and the U.S. security interests are intrinsically linked to "freedom of navigation," England emphasized, "By joining UNCLOS, we could obtain the firm legal foundation for the rights and freedoms needed to project power, reassure the allies and friendly countries, deter adversaries, sustain combat operations, and secure sea lines of communications."
- (2) As concrete examples, England points out that the legal foundation of the UNCLOS: (a) Defines the Right of Innocent Passage, (b) Establishes the Right of Transit Passage, (c) Establishes the Right of Archipelagic Sea lane Passage, (d) Secures the right to exercise High Seas Freedoms in EEZ, and (e) Secures the right of U.S. warships, including the Coast Guards, to board stateless vessels on the high seas.

Testimony of the Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England:

<http://www.senate.gov/~foreign/testimony/2007/EnglandTestimony070927.pdf>

3. Points of Statement of Admiral Patrick M. Walsh, U.S. Navy, Vice Chief of Naval Operations

Pointing out the following items over the benefits given by joining the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) from a viewpoint of performing naval operations in the actual anti-terrorist war, Admiral (ADM) Patrick M. Walsh, U.S. Navy, Vice Chief of Naval Operations (VCNO), appealed for U.S. accession to the UNCLOS with "It is time that we join the UNCLOS."

- (1) First, ADM Walsh points out the following items as the provisions of the UNCLOS that are particularly favorable to the U.S. interests: (a) Limits breadth of territorial sea; (b) Innocent passage; (c) Transit passage through international straits; (d) Archipelagic sea lanes passage; (e) Freedom of Navigation and over flight in the exclusive economic zones (EEZs); (f) Unrestricted military activities in high seas; (g) Right of approach and visit; and (h) Legitimate coastal state authority in territorial sea and contiguous zones.
- (2) Secondly, ADM Walsh asserts that the United States (U.S.) could obtain the following benefits by joining the UNCLOS: (a) codifies navigational rights by putting them in the firmest legal category as treaty rights; (b) provides legal certainty and stability within the world's largest maneuver space; (c) gives the U.S. greater voice in development of rules vital to global mobility; and (d) promotes international cooperation, including supports to the Proliferation Security Initiatives (PSI).

(3) Moreover, ADM Walsh articulates that U.S. Maritime Security Strategy is founded upon the basic truth that nations with common interests in international commerce, safety, and security can work together to address common challenges. Therefore, he points out joining the Law of the Sea Convention is critical to the success of our Maritime Security Strategy. As a concrete example, taking up the PSI and maritime security operations by the Coalition Task Force 150 (CTF-150) in the Central Command area of Operations, ADM Walsh explains the point as follows:

(a) After being inaugurated in May 2003, PSI has expanded from its original 11 partner-nations to almost 90. The PSI has achieved a success in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. However, the U.S. failure to be a Party to the UNCLOS is limiting further expansion of PSI. Although some Asian countries are supporting U.S. counter-proliferation efforts, they have insisted how they will be able to convince their legislature that PSI interdiction activities will only occur in accordance with international law including the UNCLOS, when the leading PSI nation, the United States, refuses to become a party to the Convention.

(b) Coalition Task Force 150 is composed of multi-national naval force and coast guard forces. One of the most important aspects of strengthening the effectiveness of a maritime coalition, like CTF-150, is to craft operations that take full advantage of the various capabilities of each country, while paying attention to their respective national political authorities and limitations. On that occasion, despite some inevitable differences, for example in classification disclosure policies, others can and should be eliminated when possible. One such difference that should be eliminated is non-party status of the United States under UNCLOS. When we operate with coalition partners in challenging environments, we need to use the same playbook, and the UNCLOS is a critically important part of the playbook.

Testimony of DCNO ADM Patrick M. Walsh:

<http://www.senate.gov/~foreign/testimony/2007/WalshTestimony070927.pdf>

1.4 Shipping, Resources, Environment, and Miscellaneous

September 3 “Panama Canal begins expansion” (AP, September 3, 2007)

On September 3, the biggest construction work of expanding the width of Panama Canal started since it opened 93 years ago. In the presence of former President Jimmy Carter, who signed the 1977 treaty that gave Panama control of the waterway, Panamanian President Martin Torrijos celebrated the start of construction on two wider sets of locks being added to both sides of the canal. The expansion costing 5.25 billion US dollars (USD) is expected to double the 50-mile canal's capacity and lower the price of consumer goods on the East Coast of the United States by allowing the wider vessels to pass through the waterway with more cargo. The canal moves four percent of the world's cargo at present. The new locks are expected to be ready for use between 2014 and 2015. The Panama Canal Authority is borrowing up to 2.3 billion USD between 2009 and 2011 to help finance the project. It expects to pay that back by increasing ship tolls an average of 3.5 percent a year.

September 6 “Indonesia to improve security at 7 major ports” (ABC Radio Australia, September 6, 2007)

Indonesia has announced it will improve security at seven of the country's major port terminals after a U.S. Coast Guard warning. The Transport Ministry says the Coast Guard found seven terminals that did not fully comply with the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code. It says Indonesia has 90 days from the notification to fix the problems and the department is already working on the problem. If no improvements are made, the goods and ships from these terminals ports will require tight escort when arriving in the United States, which would create higher costs.

September 9 “First China-Made 8,530-TEU Container Ship Delivered” (Xinhua, September 10, 2007)

The first 8,530-TEU container ship, of which China owns the full intellectual property rights, was delivered to China Shipping Container Lines Co Ltd (Shanghai). The ship left for its maiden voyage to the United States on September 9. It has made China the fourth country in the world, after the Republic of Korea, Japan and Denmark that is able to design and build such giant container ships, said experts. Named *New Asia*, the ship is the first of five container ships of the same type to be designed and built by Hudong-Zhonghua Shipbuilding (Group) Co Ltd for the China Shipping Container Lines Co Ltd. The 101,000-DWT container ship, 335 meters long and 42.8 meters wide, can sail at a speed of 25 knots. It took six years for the company to build the ship. It is one of the mainstream types of container ships in the world. So far the company has confirmed nine orders for its 8,530-TEU container ships, including four for the Greek Shipping Company.

September 14 “Polar ice melts to open Northwest Passage; ESA reports” (European Space Agency, September 14, 2007)

On September 14, the European Space Agency (ESA) reported the area covered by sea ice in the Arctic has shrunk to its lowest level, opening up the Northwest Passage – a long-sought short cut between Europe and Asia that has been historically impassable. (See the photograph at the left, the satellite image is composite image of about 200 photographs taken by ESA around early September 2007) It is the first time since satellite measurements began nearly 30 years ago.

Leif Toudal Pedersen from the Danish National Space Centre said: “We have seen the ice-covered area drop to just around three million square (sq) kilometers (km) which is about one million sq km less than the previous minima of 2005 and 2006. There has been a reduction of the ice cover over the last 10 years of about 100 000 sq km per year on average, which means it is a drop of one million sq km in just one year.”

As you see in the photograph at the left, the Northwest Passage which runs the nearest along the land in northern part of Canada (left-side route in the photograph at the left) is perfectly free for navigation, while in the Northeast Passage along the Siberian coast (right-side route in the same photograph) navigation remains partially blocked. The previous record low was in 2005 when the Arctic area covered by sea ice (photograph at the right) was just four million sq km. Even then, the most direct Northwest Passage did not fully open.

The Polar Regions are very sensitive indicators of climate change. According to the United Nations (U.N.)’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, these regions are highly vulnerable to rising temperatures, and it is predicted that the Arctic would be virtually ice free by the summer of 2070. Still other scientists predict it could become ice free as early as 2040 due to rising temperatures and sea ice decline.

Source: European Space Agency, September 14, 2007
http://www.esa.int/esaEO/SEMYTC13J6F_index_0.html

The photograph (left) shows satellite image of the Arctic Circle taken around early September 2007. The route on the left-side in the photograph shows the Northwest (NW) Passage, and the route on the right-side shows the Northeast (NE) Passage. The portion which looks dark represents ice-free areas, and gray area is sea ice. The NE Passage is partially blocked by sea ice. A portion which is gleaming on the left-down in the photograph represents Greenland. Compared

to another photograph (right) of the Arctic Circle taken around the same period in 2005, you will see the NW Passage is not completely open.

September 27 “Russia to operate world’s first ‘Floating Nuclear Power Plant’ in 2011” (RIA Novosti, September 27, 2007)

Russia started the construction of the floating nuclear power plant (NPP) with 70 MW capacity in Severodvinsk [in Russia's Arkhangelsk Region] in April 2007, and it should be completed by 2010, the governor of the Arkhangelsk Region said on September 27. This world's first floating NPP is most likely to operate in Severodvinsk in 2011. Russia is expected to build another six NPPs of its kind within a decade. The NPPs are expected to be widely used in remote regions with power shortfalls, and also in the implementation of projects requiring independent electricity supplies in the absence of a developed power grid. A Russian nuclear official said over 20 countries were interested in buying Russia's floating nuclear power plants. The second floating NPP could be built near the Russky Island in the Primorye Territory in Russia's Far East in 2011. If Vladivostok does not host the APEC summit, the NPP could be placed in Peveka, in the remote northeastern Chukotka Autonomous Area.

2. Intelligence Assessment

Rivalry for sovereignty among countries concerned over the Arctic Circle

Russian North Pole expedition team reached the bottom of North Pole about 4,300 meters deep with two submersibles, *Mir-1* and *Mir-2*, launched from the research vessel, the *Akademik Fedorov* for the first time in history on August 2, 2007. Planting a titanium Russian flag at the ocean bottom, the researchers on board the submersibles collected various data. This expedition was conducted as part of the “Arktika 2007” in the “International Polar year.” The research vessel led by a nuclear ice breaker, the *Russia*, reached the Pole area on July 29.

The Russian arrival at the North Pole heightened the alertness of the countries concerned over its aim, and they began to take the countermeasures. The current Russian expedition to the North Pole seems to intensify in the future the competition for capturing resources in the sea area — that in itself is, the rivalry among the countries concerned over the sovereignty in the Arctic Circle. Although we have partly introduced about the Russian aims and the subsequent activities of these countries in the OPRF MARINT Monthly Reports— August 2007 and this month issues, we have summarized here as a whole about the rivalry for sovereignty among the countries concerned over the North Pole on this occasion.

1. Russia's aims

As for the major aims of Russia, the two items are pointed out as follows. One is collection of data for its claim for an extension of outer limits of the continental shelf, and the other is securing the energy resources.

(1) Collection of data for its claim for an extension of outer limits of the continental shelf

One of the aims of current Russian expedition to the North Pole was collection of data which support Kremlin's claim for an extension of outer limits of the continental shelf. On December 20, 2001, as a front runner in the world, Russia made an official submission into the United Nations (U.N.) Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf in accordance with the article 76, clause 8 in the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)¹. In the document Russia proposed to establish new outer limits of the continental shelf of Russia as far as 350 miles beyond the

¹ Article 76, paragraph 8 stipulates: “Information on the limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured shall be submitted by the coastal State to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) set up under Annex II on the basis of equitable geographical representation. The Commission shall make recommendations to coastal States on matters related to the establishment of the outer limits of their continental shelf. The limits of the shelf established by a coastal State on the basis of these recommendations shall be final and binding.” In addition, the article 4 of Annex II in UNCLOS stipulates that the coastal State that intends to establish the outer limits of its continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles shall submit particulars of such limits to the Commission along with supporting scientific and technical data.

previous 200 mile zone². The submission stated that the “Lomonosov Ridge” (which is derived from a Russian name, and shown in the map below) is a 2,000-kilometer underwater mountain ridge underneath the Pole, and an extension of the Eurasian continent. However, in 2002, the U.N. Commission rejected the Russian proposal, recommending it to submit additional research data. (CanWest News Service, August 4, 2007) Russia has to submit another proposal to prove its claim by the end of May 2009³.

The crucial point of the recent research was to substantiate whether or not the Lomonosov Ridge is an extension of the Eurasian continental shelf. On August 2, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said, “The goal of this expedition is not to claim Russia’s territorial rights, but to prove that our shelf spreads to the North Pole. We expect the current expedition would allow us to acquire additional scientific proof.” (RIA Novosti, August 2, 2007)

According to the BBC News dated September 20, Russian Natural Resources Ministry said analysis of soil samples taken from the “Lomonosov Ridge” in May and June 2007 showed the “Lomonosov Ridge” was proved to be linked to the Russian continental shelf. The Minister said the structure of the underwater Lomonosov mountain chain is similar to the world’s other continental shelves. Therefore, the Ridge is part of the Russia’s land mass. In addition, following the resumption of strategic bomber training flight in August, the similar flights were also commenced again over the Arctic Ocean areas. (BBC News, September 20, 2007)

(2) Security of Energy Resources

If Russian claims were approved, Russia would obtain resource control rights in the vast sea area. According to a tentative study by experts, as much as 25 percent of the world's undiscovered oil and gas could be hidden in the arctic region. Moreover, oil development technology in the deep sea is improving. Norway is considered to be a world leader in off-shore technology, after more than 30 years of challenging North Sea oil exploration. Having traditionally no experiences of oil-well drilling and production except for on-shore, Russia is said to be expecting cooperation from Norway in this area. (BBC News, August 13, 2006) Also, concerning the drilling technology in the deep sea, Guy Cantwell, spokesman for the U.S. drilling company, Transocean, says it holds the world depth record for oil and gas drilling, set in 2003 at 10,011 feet of water in the Gulf of Mexico. The Transocean is building four new enhanced *Enterprise*-class drill ships at South Korean shipyard. According to Cantwell, they will be able to work in water depths of 12,000 feet and drill wells 40,000 feet deep. (The Vancouver Sun, August 19, 2007)

In addition to these technological developments, phenomena of global warming in recent years

² As for the submission contents of Russia, see CLCS Home Page (HP). From this HP, you can have an access to the documents submitted in the past: Brazil (2000), Australia (2004), Ireland (2005), New Zealand (2006), Joint submission by France, Ireland, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2006), Norway (2006), France as a State (Different sea area from the Joint submission)(2007). Numbers in parentheses indicate year of submission.
http://www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_home.htm

³ According to the Rules of Procedure of the CLCS, the State that ratified the Convention by May 13, 1999 shall submit the document to the Commission by the end of May 2009. For the State after that, the Annex II Article 4 stipulates: “It shall submit particulars of such limits to the Commission along with supporting scientific and technical data as soon as possible but in any case within 10 years of the entry into force of this Convention for that State.”

have been observed. For example, in December 2006, a team of scientists from the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), the University of Washington, and McGill University, has issued study reports which forecast that the Arctic would be ice-free in summer by 2040. (BBC News, August 13, 2007) Moreover, with the steep rise in crude oil prices in recent years, it could be said that the resource developments in the Arctic Sea is in the trend of gaining economic practicability.

2. Reactions of countries concerned

Russian planting of flag on the seabed under the North Pole was regarded as a symbolic show of force of claiming Russia's territorial rights. This action has elicited the strong repulsion and response from the countries facing the Arctic Ocean. Under the UNCLOS, the five Arctic nations—Canada, Denmark (through Greenland), the United States, Norway and Russia are permitted to claim 200 nautical miles of territorial waters—the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Besides Russia, these countries can also file claims for more territory if they can prove that their continental shelves are geographically linked to the Arctic seabed. Below are the reactions of other four countries to the current Russian expedition to the North Pole.

(1) Canada

Canada has made the strongest response to the Russian movement. The Harper's government has taken the Canada's position of protecting the sovereignty in the Arctic Circle as one of the highest priorities. The government has established a "Northern Agenda" with four objectives as follows: (a) increase investment and regulatory measures to deal with growing demand for northern resources; (b) protect Arctic sovereignty; (c) devolve some powers from the federal government to the territorial government; and (d) respond to the challenges of climate change. (The Hill Times, August 20, 2007)

Canada's Foreign Minister, Peter MacKay, has taken exception to this recent Russian move of planting a national flag on the seabed under the North Pole, saying "You can't claim the territorial rights by planting flags. This isn't the 15th century." (BBC News, August 2, 2007) Previously, on July 11 before Russian expedition, Canadian Prime Minister (PM) Stephen Harper said, "Canada has a choice of either using sovereignty or losing it. We intend to use it." Demonstrating a strong determination of defending the territorial sovereignty and sovereign rights over the Arctic Circle, Harper announced to purchase eight new ice-going patrol boats and to build a new port to service them. (World Politics Review, August 13, 2007)

Responding to the Russian expedition, PM Stephen Harper visited the North Pole on August 9-10, and announced a strong will and concrete measures to protect the territorial sovereignty and sovereign rights over the land and sea in this area. The places the PM visited included Hans Island (a small island in the Kennedy Channel between Ellesmere Island of Canadian territory and Greenland) whose sovereignty is being disputed with Denmark. The government announced that it would expand the Canadian Rangers to 5,000 personnel with some stationed in the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. The rangers would train in a newly established Canadian Forces Arctic training center located in Resolute Bay, Nunavut. The center will provide

specialized training in cold weather military operations, search and rescue techniques and sovereignty enforcement. A deep-water docking and refueling facility in Nanisivik, Nunavut will also be built to serve arctic offshore patrol trips. (The Hill Times, August 20, 2007)

Although Canada has an EEZ extending 200 miles from the shore of the Arctic Circle, it can submit an expansion of its outer limits in accordance with the UNCLOS provisions. In doing so, Canada needs to submit particulars of such limit to the CLCS along with supporting scientific and technical data within the specified time limit. Prior to Russia's expedition, Michael Byers, an expert in international law, the Canada Research Chair in Global Politics and International Law at the University of British Columbia, said the time-limit of Canada's submission is year 2013 (within ten years after its ratification in 2003). But Canada isn't moving quickly enough to gather the extensive scientific data needed to stake its claim with the international body, CLCS, says Michael Byers. Without a serious shift in political will, and an infusion of sufficient financial resources, Canada will miss its deadline in 2013, said Byers. Byers applauded mapping the Lomonosov Ridge off northern Ellesmere Island and Greenland, but he pointed out Canada isn't doing enough work on the area extending west to the Beaufort Sea and up to the North Pole. (CBC News, July 27, 2007) However, looking at the Canada's reactions to the current Russian expedition, scientific research activities in the Arctic Sea areas by a single country or the countries concerned under joint cooperation are regarded to be accelerated.

For Canada, another important issue on territorial sovereignty in the Arctic Circle is recognition of territorial sovereignty over the Northwest Passage. The European Space Agency (ESA) announced on September 14 that the sea area covered by sea ice in the Arctic has shrunk to its lowest level, opening up the Northwest Passage – a long-sought short cut between Europe and Asia that has been historically impassable. This is first time since satellite measurements began nearly 30 years ago. (See 1. 4 Shipping, Resources, Environment and Miscellaneous column in this monthly report.)

Canada declared the 1,450km Northwest Passage an internal waterway in 1973. Russia has also argued that the Northeast Passage along the Siberian coast is an internal waterway. If these passages become navigational for a definite period due to global warming in the Arctic Ocean, discussions over the international status will be intensified. While Canada claims its entire territorial sovereignty over the routes passing through Canadian territorial area, the United States and European Union have said they will push for the routes to be designated as international passageway.

On August 21, Canadian PM Stephen Harper expressed his concerns over the recent event in the Arctic Circle at the summit meeting of three countries in North America held at Montebello, Canada. He stated Canada is fully intended to strengthening its Arctic sovereignty on every level, not just military, but economic, social, environmental and other means. Harper admitted there are certain differences of opinion in relation to the Northwest Passage between Canada and the United States. As to the Northwest Passage, while expressing understanding on Canada's position, U.S. President George W. Bush said, "We believe it's an international passageway." Having said that, Bush confirmed the United States does not question Canadian sovereignty over

its Arctic islands, and the United States supports Canadian investments that have been made to exercise its sovereignty. (The White House HP, August 21, 2007)

Between the two countries, the then U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Canada's Prime Minister Brian Mulroney signed the Arctic Co-operation Agreement on the Arctic Circle in 1988. The document states that the U.S. would refrain from sending icebreakers through the Northwest Passage without Canada's consent; in turn, Canada would always give consent. However, the issue of territorial sovereignty was left unresolved. (CBS News, August 8, 2007)

Source: CBC News, August 8, 2007.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/northwest-passage/>

Northwest Passage Route

The Northwest Passage, across northern Canada, is the most direct maritime path from Europe to Asia. The ice-free Northwest Passage will shorten the distance from Europe to Asia through the Panama Canal (PC) by approximately 7,000 kilometers. From London to Tokyo via the PC, the distance is about 23,000 kilometers. Traveling east through the Suez Canal is also longer at 21,000 kilometers. The route through the Northwest Passage is just 16,000 kilometers. (CBC News, August 8, 2007) Therefore, ice-free Northwest Passage will shorten the traveling time. Mr. Michael Richardson, a security specialist with the Singapore-based Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, says, "A container cargo ship traveling at 21 knots between Japan's Yokohama port and Rotterdam in the Netherlands takes 29 days if it goes around the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa. It takes 22 days via the Strait of Malacca and Singapore and on to Europe through the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean Sea. But the same ship would take just 15 days via the Arctic Ocean. In the sea route, time saved is money made." (The Straits Times, Singapore, September 16, 2007)

However, a lot of dangers still remain before the Northwest Passage becomes a commercial shipping route. At present Canadian Coast Guard ships are mapping the seabed around the Northwest Passage, but they say it could take years before their data gets added to official navigational charts of the passage. (CBC News, September 18, 2007)

(2) Denmark

Denmark possesses Greenland, and has the rights to claim an extension of the outer limits of the continental shelf. Peter Taksoe-Jensen, legal adviser to the Danish Foreign Ministry, said,

“Denmark is preparing for a submission of extending the outer limits of the continental shelf to the region around the pole under the UNCLOS. Greenland is also very close to the North Pole. We are now collecting technical data in order to support the submission to the CLCS that we are going to make in five or six years' time.” According to Mr. Taksoe-Jensen, Denmark is cooperating with Canada on a joint venture to collect technical data on the continental shelf despite the tiff over ownership of Hans Island (a small island in the Kennedy Channel between Ellesmere Island of Canadian territory and Greenland). (The National Post, August 3, 2007)

Competing with the Russian expedition to the North Pole and the Canadian reactions, Denmark sent a team of scientists to the Arctic Circle on August 12 on a one-month voyage to seek evidence that the “Lomonosov Ridge” is an extension of the continental shelf of Greenland. “No matter how many flags you plant or how many prime ministers you send, that doesn't become a valid parameter of claiming the sovereignty,” said Helge Sander, Denmark's minister of science, technology and innovation. Sander also made clear that Denmark is planning expeditions in 2009 and 2011 to deliver its claim of extension to CLCS in 2014. (AP, August 15, 2007)

On September 14, Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller said he sent invitations to the foreign ministers of Canada, the United States, Norway and Russia to hold the meeting of five countries concerned to discuss territorial sovereignty over the Arctic Circle in Ilulissat in Greenland in 2008. Under the 1982 UNCLOS, Arctic nations have 10 years after ratification to prove their claims under the largely uncharted polar ice pack. Muller said, “We need to find common rules on how we should behave until then and how we should treat the polar region.” (AP, September 14, 2007)

(3) The United States

Up to this time the United States is not a member of the UNCLOS, and it is not in a position to claim the rights based on the UNCLOS. However, Russian expedition to the North Pole is accelerating the rivalry over the sovereignty of the countries concerned. Accepting the request for early ratification from President George W. Bush, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee commenced discussions toward ratification of the UNCLOS since late September. (See 1. 3 Foreign and International Relations column in this Monthly.) Alaska State of the United States faces the Arctic Ocean (Beaufort Sea), and the United States and Canada are disputing on a portion of the Beaufort Sea, which is thought to contain huge amount of oil. Moreover, as previously mentioned, two countries have different interpretations on the international positions over the Northwest Passage. (World Politics Review, August 13, 2007)

Responding to the Russian expedition, the United States dispatched a U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker *Healy* from Seattle to the Arctic Ocean area for research on August 6. A research team of about 20 scientists including the members of the State Department are to map an area known as the Chukchi Cap about 500 miles north of the Chukchi Sea, operating from the base of Barrow, Alaska facing the Beaufort Sea.. Professor Larry Mayer, director of the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping at the University of New Hampshire, said the aim of several months of research is to decide the width of the continental shelf north of Alaska. It is basically just doing scientific research, and is not dropping the national flag. According to Mayer, this is the third such mapping

trip. The others were in 2003 and 2004. The mapping is conducted with an echo sounder. (AP, August 10, 2007)

On the other hand, as for the activities between the U.S. and Russia, stemming from a 2003 Memorandum of Understanding for World Ocean and Polar Regions Studies between the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Russian Academy of Sciences, the project of the Russian-American Long-term Census of the Arctic (RUSALCA) has been established. The joint oceanographic research activities have been implemented in the Arctic Ocean area where Russia and the U.S. border each other, targeting the Bering Strait and the Chukchi Sea. The first research expedition was conducted in July 2004, the second in October 2005, and the third in August 2006 respectively.

(See NOAA HP: <http://www.arctic.noaa.gov/aro/russian-american/>)

(4) Norway

Norway is a polar nation which possesses Svalbard Islands (Spitsbergen Islands). However, Norway keeps distance from the rivalry over the North Pole itself, but negotiations with Russia on deciding the demarcation line over the border of the Barents Sea has not been settled.

At the interview on August 13, Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Store pointed out as follows. (a) The Arctic Ocean is bordered by five coastal States, four of which are party to the Convention on the Law of the Sea (date of ratification in parentheses): Norway (1996), Russia (1997), Canada (2003) and Denmark (2004). The USA has submitted a bill to the Senate proposing to ratify the convention. Therefore, Norway and Russia have until 2009 to submit their data to the CLCS, whereas Canada and Denmark are not required to do so until 2013 and 2014 respectively, (b) Up to now, the two nations that submitted documentation for extending the outer limits of the continental shelf as the coastal countries in the Arctic Ocean are Russia and Norway. The North Pole is included in the area claimed by Russia. The Lomonosov Ridge is a key consideration. Russia claims it is an extension of its continental shelf. If any of the other coastal States (Denmark, Canada and possibly the USA) should submit similar assessments, there could be a need for delimitation of the continental shelf. In this case, without an agreement from the nations concerned, the Commission will not be able to consider data. (c) Norway's continental shelf does not extend anywhere near that far north. Norway submitted documentation for extending the outer limits of the continental shelf on 27 November 2006. In preparing the documentation, Norway maintained regular contact with all neighboring countries, and keeping them informed about Norway's views. All of these neighboring countries have consented to the Commission considering the Norwegian data. (The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway, HP, August 13, 2007)

Regarding the contents of Norwegian application for extending the outer limits of the continental shelf, details are available at the press release in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway Home Page dated 27 November 2006.

According to publicly available information (Questions and Answers), the Norwegian application for extending the outer limits of the continental shelf focuses on its mainland, Svalbard Islands and Jan Mayen Island in the Norwegian Sea. Commission has requested

additional documentation. In the submission, it is clearly written that the North Pole is not the territory of Norway, and the continental shelves of Svalbard Islands do not extend to vicinity of the North Pole. (The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway, HP: <http://www.regjeringen.no/> Also, application contents are also available from the above-mentioned CLCS HP.)

3. Future Issues

According to the articles in the CLCS and the annex II of UNCLOS, time period for submissions of extending the outer limits of the continental shelf is designated to be made within the 10-year time frame from the date of accession to the Convention for the countries that entered the Convention after May 13, 1999. Therefore, if the United States were to ratify the Convention within 2007, the cut-off date would be 2017. The substantial discussion at the CLCS over the submission of extension of the continental shelf in the Arctic Circle is regarded to be made after all submissions of extension of five countries are prepared. The discussions are expected to face difficulties with interests of every country are closely connected.

The Arctic Circle during the Cold War era represented a flying path of the intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) from the geopolitical structure of the U.S. and Soviet confrontation. With Early Warning Systems of two super powers located in the areas, the Arctic Circle was also the navigational routes of the ballistic missile nuclear submarines (SSBN), and it was located in the important, geographical position militarily. This structure remains basically unchanged in U.S.-Russia relations. In this point, it is largely different from the environment surrounding the Antarctic Pole, the treaty of which came into effect in 1961 during the cold war era by declaring the permanent utilization of only the peaceful purpose of the Antarctic.

Apart from these military situations, in the Arctic Circle under its severe meteorological conditions, no visible battles for the rivalry of the sovereignty have ever come to the surface. However, the recent Russian expedition has made the confrontation of the interests of each country over its latent territorial rights and sovereign rights surfaced by hitting the national flag on the sea bed below the North Pole as if it were demonstrating the rights of prior occupation mentioned in international law. So far, in the Arctic Circle, the countries concerned have individually or jointly conducted the scientific researches. Hereafter, this kind of scientific researches is regarded to involve the interests and political calculations of the countries concerned. If these calculations are intensified, the scientific researches conducted independently by the respective countries will be expected to increase. On this occasion, in view of the meteorological conditions of the Arctic Circle, the icebreaking capabilities of each country will become essential. In this area Russia is superior. Today Russia has five nuclear-powered icebreakers. (See 1. 4 Shipping, Resources, Environment and Miscellaneous in the OPRF MARINT Monthly Report April 2007) On the other hand, the United States has only three icebreakers which can endure the duties in sea areas in the Arctic Circle. (International Herald Tribune, August 9, 2007) As mentioned already, Canada has announced to strengthen the military power in the Arctic areas and to build the icebreakers.

The Russian Daily *Kommersant* dated August 4, stated in an interesting article entitled "Cold

War Goes North,” “(by the recent expedition) the confrontation between Russia and the West has opened a new front—North Pole front.” In future it seems that the countries concerned will demonstrate the presence in the areas of the Arctic Circle with these capabilities in the background.

Source: BBC News, August 2, 2007.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6927395.stm#map>

Map of the Arctic Circle

- 1) **North Pole:** Russia leaves its flag on the seabed, 4,000m (13,100ft) beneath the surface, as part of its claims for oil and gas reserves
- 2) **Lomonosov Ridge:** Russia argues that this underwater feature is an extension of its continental territory and is looking for evidence
- 3) **200-nautical mile (370km) line:** Shows how far countries' agreed economic area extends beyond their coastline. Often set from outlying islands
- 4) **Russian-claimed territory:** The bid to claim a vast area is being

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CBC News	http://www.cbc.ca/
CNSNews	http://www.cnsnews.com/
CanWest News Service	http://www.canwestglobal.com/home.html
China Military Online	http://english.pladaily.com.cn/
Defense-aerospace.com	http://www.defense-aerospace.com/
European Space Agency	http://www.esa.int/esaCP/index.html
Express India	http://cities.expressindia.com/
Inquirer net (Philippine)	http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	http://www.ipcc.ch/
International Herald Tribune	http://www.ihf.com/
International Maritime Organization (IMO)	http://www.imo.org/
Itar-Tass	http://www.itar-tass.com/eng/
Kommersant (Russia)	http://www.kommersant.com/
People's Daily Online	http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/
RIA Novosti	http://en.rian.ru/
Singapore Government Media Release	http://www.sprinter.gov.sg/home1.html
The Canadian Press	http://www.cp.org/default.aspx
The Hill Times	http://www.thehilltimes.ca/
The Jakarta Post	http://www.thejakartapost.com/headlines.asp
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway	http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud.html?id=833
The National Post	http://www.canada.com/nationalpost/index.html
The Nippon Foundation	http://www.nippon-foundation.or.jp/eng/
The Straits Times (Singapore)	http://straitstimes.asiaone.com/
The Sydney Morning Herald	http://www.smh.com.au/
The Times of India	http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/
The United Nations (Law of the Sea)	http://www.un.org/Depts/los/index.htm
The Vancouver Sun	http://www.canada.com/vancouver_sun/index.html
The White House HP	http://www.whitehouse.gov/
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations	http://www.senate.gov/~foreign/
Viet Nam News Agency (VNA)	http://www.vnagency.com.vn/Home/tabid/117/Default.aspx
World Politics Review	http://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/
Xinhua	http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/
Yomiuri Online	http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/

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