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SENATE

P. S. RES. NO. 722

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON CHINA'S INSTALLATION OF MISSILE SYSTEMS ON THREE (3) FORTIFIED OUTPOSTS IN THE SPRATLY ISLANDS WHICH IS BEING CLAIMED BY THE PHILIPPINES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ASSERTING THE COUNTRY'S SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AND ENSURING THAT THIS MILITARIZATION BY CHINA DOES NOT POSE ANY THREAT TO THE PHILIPPINE'S DEFENSE AND SECURITY

WHEREAS, on 2 May 2018, news media outfit, Consumer News and Business Channel (CNBC) reported that China has installed anti-ship cruise missiles and surface-to-air missile systems on three (3) fortified outposts. These outputs - the Fiery Cross Reef or Kagitingan Reef, Subi Reef and Mischief Reef in the Spratly Islands- are among the disputed islands being claimed by Philippines.¹

WHEREAS, based on the U.S. Intelligence report, these missile systems were moved to the outposts in the Spratly Islands within the past 30 days.²

WHEREAS, according to the report, the anti-ship cruise missiles, called the YJ-12B, can strike surface vessels within 295 nautical miles of the reefs. Meanwhile, the surface-to-air missile systems, called the HQ-9B, can target drones, aircraft and cruise missiles within 160 nautical miles.³

¹ Macias, A. (2 May 2018). *China quietly installed defensive missile systems on strategic Spratly Islands in hotly contested South China Sea*. Retrieved from <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/05/02/china-added-missile-systems-on-spratly-islands-in-south-china-sea.html>

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

WHEREAS, the aforementioned military weapons were allegedly previously seen in Woody Island, China's military headquarters, through satellite images.⁴

WHEREAS, apart from military installations, China's extensive reclamation in the disputed territories also included airstrips which have been recently utilized when China deployed advanced fighter jets to the West Philippine Sea. In a video released by the People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF), the aerial warfare service branch of China's armed forces, a Russian-built Su-35s is seen flying over the disputed territories. Thus, further stressing China's efforts on airspace control.⁵

WHEREAS, the installation of these military weapons and structures reportedly supplements China's recent installation of military jamming equipment in Kagitingan Reef and Mischief Reef. Such equipment is capable of disrupting communication and radar systems.⁶

WHEREAS, in a press briefing last 3 May 2018, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying confirmed the installation of these missile systems. According to her, "*Our peaceful construction activities on the Nansha Islands (Spratlys islands), including the deployment of necessary national defense facilities, are meant to safeguard China's sovereignty and security, which is also the rights a sovereign state is entitled to.*"

WHEREAS, altogether, the installation of these weapons and the building of facilities and structures is a clear policy of militarization by China in the West Philippine Sea.

WHEREAS, while the Philippines has previously forged economic ties with China, the security and defense relationship is a separate matter. Thus, this alleged militarization of the West Philippine Sea is very alarming and it poses a big threat to the country's national defense and security.

WHEREAS, there is a need to assert the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as reassert the country's victory in the arbitration case on the disputed territories by rallying the support and strengthening the alliance with regional partners such as the United States, Japan, Australia, and the ASEAN.

⁴ Macias, A. (2 May 2018). *China quietly installed defensive missile systems on strategic Spratly Islands in hotly contested South China Sea*. Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/02/china-added-missile-systems-on-spratly-islands-in-south-china-sea.html>

⁵ Leoni, V. (8 February 2018). *China sends advanced fighter jets to South China Sea for first time*. Retrieved from <https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2018/02/08/china-sends-advanced-fighter-jets-to-south-china-sea-for-first-time/>

⁶ Viray, P.L. (10 April 2018). *China deployed jamming equipment in Spratlys — Pentagon*. Retrieved from <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2018/04/10/1804610/china-deployed-jamming-equipment-spratlys-pentagon#eFtRpIyW8H7BB1TY.99>

WHEREAS, furthermore, there is also a need to ensure the preservation of the country's defense and security by fast tracking the implementation of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) and strengthening the implementation of existing laws such as the Archipelagic Baseline Law of the Philippines, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), among others.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippines Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on China's installation of missile systems on three (3) fortified outposts in the Spratly islands which is being claimed by the Philippines, with the end in view of asserting the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and ensuring that this militarization by China does not pose any threat to the Philippine's defense and security.

Adopted,


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator