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SENATE

P. S. RES. NO. 744

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Introduced by **SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA**

RESOLUTION
URGING PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
TO CONVENE THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
TO DETERMINE DECISIVE COURSES OF ACTION
TO ADDRESS CHINA'S MILITARIZATION
OVER THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

WHEREAS, Article II, Sections 7 and 8 of the 1987 Constitution provide, as follows:

Section 7. The State shall pursue an independent foreign policy. In its relations with other states, the paramount consideration shall be national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest, and the right to self-determination.

Section 8. The Philippines, consistent with the national interest, adopts and pursues a policy of freedom from nuclear weapons in its territory.

WHEREAS, on 2 April 2018, the Wall Street Journal reported that, according to United States officials, China has installed equipment on two (2) of the fortified outposts it constructed in the Spratly Islands capable of jamming communications and radar systems, a significant step in its creeping militarization of the West Philippine Sea¹;

WHEREAS, on 2 May 2018, CNBC reported that China has installed anti-ship cruise missiles and surface-to-air missile systems on three (3) of the fortified outposts

¹ Gordon, Michael and Jeremy Page. *China Installed Military Jamming Equipment on Spratly Islands, U.S. Says*. The Wall Street Journal (2 April 2018). Retrieved from: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/china-installed-military-jamming-equipment-on-spratly-islands-u-s-says-1523266320>

it constructed in the West Philippine Sea, more specifically, on Fiery Cross Reef, Subi Reef and Mischief Reef in the Spratly Islands²;

WHEREAS, Gregory Poling, a Center for Strategic and International Studies fellow and director of the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative, was quoted as saying that, as a result of the installation of the missile systems, “every ship or plane moving near the Spratlys will now be operating within Chinese missile range”³;

WHEREAS, on 18 May 2018, the Chinese army announced that it had landed bombers, including the top-of-the-line H-6K, on an outpost in the South China Sea for the first time⁴;

WHEREAS, nearly the entire sovereign territory of the Philippines falls within the radius of the bombers, including Manila and all five Philippine military bases earmarked for development under the U.S.-Philippines Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement⁵;

WHEREAS, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), in a statement, said that the Philippines will not publicly condemn China over the landing of bombers in the South China Sea and, instead, will quietly convey the government’s concerns through diplomatic channels ⁶;

WHEREAS, in contrast, on 21 May 2018, Vietnam publicly condemned the landing of China's bombers in the South China Sea, saying that such activities “increase tensions” in the region⁷;

WHEREAS, Acting Chief Justice Antonio Carpio repeatedly called on the Duterte administration to bring a formal diplomatic protest opposing Beijing’s

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

³ Macias, Amanda. *China upped the ante by installing missiles at key South China Sea outposts. Warplanes are likely next*. CNBC (3 May 2018). Retrieved from: <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/05/03/china-likely-to-add-combat-aircraft-to-south-china-sea-outposts.html>

⁴ *China Lands First Bomber On South China Sea Island*. Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative. (18 May 2018). Retrieved from: <https://amti.csis.org/china-lands-first-bomber-south-china-sea-island/>

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Esmaquel, Paterno. *DFA won't publicly condemn China over bombers*. Rappler (21 May 2018). Retrieved from: <https://www.rappler.com/nation/202977-dfa-statement-chinese-bombers-paracel-islands-south-china-sea>

⁷ Esmaquel, Paterno. *Unlike Philippines, Vietnam condemns Chinese bombers*. Rappler (22 May 2018). Retrieved from: <https://www.rappler.com/nation/203063-vietnam-chinese-bombers-paracel-islands-philippines>

continued militarization in the disputed West Philippine Sea, the latest of which was the deployment of nuclear strike-capable bomber planes in the Paracels⁸;

WHEREAS, Justice Carpio stressed that, “[f]ailure to formally protest means the Philippines is acquiescing or consenting to the militarization, and worse, to the claim of China that all the islands, waters and resources within the nine-dashed line form part of Chinese territory”;

WHEREAS, former DFA Secretary Albert del Rosario called on the Duterte administration to revisit its foreign policy, saying that “[s]ince an early decision was made by the incumbent government to shelve the arbitral outcome, not only did we lose opportunities to advance our position, but we also found ourselves being thrown into reverse gear, thus allowing ourselves to be fully disadvantaged”⁹;

WHEREAS, on 22 May 2018, the Philippine Daily Inquirer reported that Malacañang has maintained its position not to antagonize China, as it chose to set aside contentious issues over Manila’s maritime dispute with Beijing in the South China Sea¹⁰;

WHEREAS, inaction or soft diplomatic actions are no longer options as the military activities of China over West Philippine Sea have placed the whole country under perpetual threat;

WHEREAS, the President should be presented all possible actions, including forceful diplomacy, close collaboration with allies such as Australia, Japan, and the United States, renewed partnership with Indonesia, Vietnam, and other allies in ASEAN, and availment of other proper UN mechanisms;

WHEREAS, the National Security Council (NSC), as the principal advisory body on the proper coordination and integration of plans and policies affecting national security, is the one mandated by law to ensure that the President is presented all available information and courses of action;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that our government establish a clear policy over the militarization activities of China on the West Philippine Sea and, with the help of

⁸ Ramos, Marlon. *Carpio: PH, other claimants should ward off China's 'creeping invasion' in West PHL Sea*. Philippine Daily Inquirer. (21 May 2018). Retrieved from: <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/992709/carpio-ph-other-claimants-should-ward-off-chinas-creeping-invasion-in-west-phl-sea>

⁹ Del Rosario, Albert. *On the South China Sea: Let us help our President*. Rappler (21 May 2018). Retrieved from: <https://www.rappler.com/thought-leaders/203006-help-president-duterte-south-china-sea-issue>

¹⁰ Corrales, Nestor. *Duterte admin opts to 'set aside' critical issues on maritime row, avoid upsetting China*. Philippine Daily Inquirer (22 May 2018). Retrieved from: <http://globalnation.inquirer.net/167170/breaking-duterte-admin-opts-set-aside-critical-issues-maritime-row-avoid-upsetting-china>

international community, pressure China to remove any and all facilities that threaten the security of our country and the ASEAN region;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, to urge President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to convene the National Security Council to determine decisive courses of action to address China's militarization over the West Philippine Sea.

Adopted,


BEILA M. DE LIMA