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Taiwan denounces large-scale Chinese drills near island



September 10, 2020 reuters.com reported: “Taiwan denounced China on Thursday over large-scale air and naval drills off its southwestern coast which it called a serious provocation and a threat to international air traffic. It urged Beijing to rein in its armed forces.

China, which claims democratic Taiwan as its own, has stepped up military exercises near the island, in what Taipei views as intimidation to force it to accept Chinese rule.

Yeh Kuo-hui, from Taiwan’s defence ministry’s operations and planning department, told a hastily-arranged news conference that China’s intentions could not be predicted. “We must make all preparations for war readiness,” Yeh said, following a news briefing from senior officers describing the Chinese activities over the last two days, and showing a map of Chinese movements.

The drills took place in Taiwan’s air defence identification zone, between mainland Taiwan and the Taiwan-controlled Pratas Islands, the ministry said. Taiwan says China sent advanced Su-30 and J-10 fighters to participate.

Taiwan Deputy Defence Minister Chang Che-ping said the drills threatened regional stability and endangered international aviation, he said.” ...”



U.S.-China tensions set to dominate Southeast Asia summit

September 9, 2020 spacewar.com reported: “US-China rivalry is set to dominate discussions as the foreign ministers of 10 Southeast Asian countries begin an online summit Wednesday, with Washington’s top diplomat ready to take aim at Beijing’s ‘bullying’ in the South China Sea.

The summit comes just days after China launched ballistic missiles in the flashpoint waters as part of live-fire exercises and as Washington and Beijing clash over a range of issues from trade to the coronavirus.

Ministers will be joined by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi for their first summit since the US announced sanctions on Chinese companies over Beijing’s construction of artificial islands in the disputed waters.

The resource-rich South China Sea is claimed in its entirety by Beijing but is also contested by Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan...”

Iranian retaliation for any Israeli attack to include UAE, Saudi Arabia

September 9, 2020 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, special assistant to Majlis Speaker and former Iranian deputy foreign minister, said that the UAE has made a big mistake by establishing relations with ‘the cancer of the region, the Zionist entity’ and that this step was not in its best interest, reports the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI). He added that the ‘Palestinians will not remain silent in the face of this betrayal.’

Amir-Abdollahian stated that the UAE may very well have upset its own security and stability with this move because Israel upsets the stability everywhere it is present. Amir-Abdollahian warned that the UAE will also bear the brunt of any retaliation against ‘any incident – covert or overt’ carried out by the Zionists and that is meant to harm the security and stability of Iran. He added that this warning goes to the Saudis as well...”

Palestinians: We’ll sever ties with nations that open a Jerusalem embassy

September 8, 2020 jpost.com reported: “The Palestinian Authority will sever ties with any country that opens an embassy to Israel in Jerusalem, a top Palestinian official warned on Sunday, after Serbia and Kosovo announced that they will be doing so in the near future.

‘Palestine will sever its relations with any country that will move or open its embassy to Jerusalem,’ PLO Executive Committee Secretary-General Saeb Erekat tweeted on Sunday.

‘We urge all nation states to abide by international law, including Security Council resolutions 478 and 2334. Violating [international] law is a sign of weakness not strength,’ Erekat said.

‘The most obvious violation of international law is Israel’s annexation of east Jerusalem, and any recognition of such illegal annexation in any form is not only [a] flagrant violation of international law, but also total disrespect for the UN charter and the relevant UN resolutions...’

Turkey and Iran seek ‘strong foundation’ for partnership

September 8, 2020 jpost.com reported: “Iranian President Hassan Rouhani spoke with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday. Iran’s Tasnim News Agency described the discussions, via video, as working to form the ‘strong foundation’ for future work. Turkish pro-government media characterized the discussions as trending towards high level ‘cooperation.’

Iran and Turkey, along with Russia, have worked closely together in Syria, even though Turkey ostensibly backs the opposition Syrian rebels against the Russian-backed Syrian regime. Iran, Turkey and Russia all oppose the US presence in Syria and have worked to undermine America’s role. Iran and Turkey also oppose Israel and support Hamas.”...

Turkey has been increasing its aggressive threats against fellow NATO-member Greece, and also threatening Egypt, Cyprus, the UAE and other states in the region. It has invaded and occupied part of northern Syria and often bombs northern Iraq, claiming to be fighting militants. In recent years Ankara tried to get Tehran to work with it against far-left Kurdish insurgents...”

Experts warn China-India standoff risks unintentional war

September 6, 2020 apnews.com reported: “As a monthslong military standoff between India and China along their disputed mountain border protracts, experts warn that the nuclear-armed countries — which already have engaged in their bloodiest clash in decades — could unintentionally slide into war.

For 45 years, a series of agreements, written and unwritten, maintained an uneasy truce along the border on the eastern edge of the Himalayan region of Kashmir. But moves and clashes over the past few months have made the situation unpredictable, raising the risk that a miscalculation from either side could have serious consequences that resonate beyond the cold-desert region.

“The situation is very dangerous on the ground and can spiral out of control,” said Lt. Gen. D.S. Hooda, who was head of the Indian Military’s Northern Command from 2014 to 2016. The two Asian giants have held several rounds of talks, mainly involving military commanders, without success.” ...

Last week, the world’s two most populous nations, which share thousands of kilometers (miles) of disputed border, accused each another of fresh provocations, including allegations of soldiers crossing into each other’s territory.

India said its soldiers thwarted “provocative” movements by China’s military twice last week. In turn, China’s Defense Ministry accused Indian troops of crossing established lines of control and creating provocations along the border.

Tensions first erupted in early May with a brawl between soldiers from the two sides. The situation escalated dramatically in June when they fought with clubs, stones and fists, leaving 20 Indian soldiers dead and dozens wounded. China did not report any casualties.

The standoff is over disputed portions of a pristine landscape in a region...”

Palau invites US military to build bases as China seeks regional clout

September 4, 2020 spacewar.com reported: “The tiny Pacific nation of Palau has urged the United States military to build bases on its territory — which lies in a region where Washington is pushing back against growing Chinese influence.

US Defense Secretary Mark Esper visited the island nation last week and accused Beijing of ‘ongoing destabilising activities’ in the Pacific.

Palau President Tommy Remengesau later revealed he told Esper the US military was welcome to build facilities in his country, an archipelago about 1,500 kilometres (930 miles) east of the Philippines.

‘Palau’s request to the US military remains simple — build joint-use facilities, then come and use them regularly,’ he said in a letter to the US defence chief that his office released this week.

The note, addressed to Esper and marked ‘by hand delivery, Koror. Palau,’ said the nation of 22,000 was open to hosting land bases, port facilities and airfields for the US military...”



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