

**Research Article****CHINA VIOLATES INTERNATIONAL LAW AND REGIONAL COMMITMENT WHEN IMPLEMENTATION IS ISLAND AND ILLEGAL SEALING IN SIX STONE ISLANDS AND SHANDS IN THE TRUONG SA ISSUES SUBJECT TO VIETNAM'S SOVEREIGNTY****\*Dr. Nguyen Thanh Minh**

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**Abstract**

China's invasion and embellishment of rocky islands in the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam into military bases and civil offices is a serious violation sovereignty of the State of Vietnam. This is also a violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, and the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, eroding trust in international relations between the two countries, the region and the world. The State of Vietnam is the only country that has sufficient historical and legal evidence for asserting its sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos, when the Vietnamese State established sovereignty at least at the beginning of the year. In the seventeenth century, there was no established country and no objections. The State of Vietnam continues to fight to affirm its sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos, and at the same time requires the parties to return the rocky islands illegally occupied by Vietnam in the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos according to international law.

**Keywords:** China, violation, international law, reclamation, rocky island, sovereignty, Vietnam.

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**INTRODUCTION****Make a problem**

In general, when based on the international legal normative system on establishing territorial sovereignty, Vietnam is the only country in the East Sea that has sovereignty over the two archipelagos of Paracels and Islands. Truong Sa. Vietnam is also the only country in the region and in the world that establishes sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos in terms of state. Vietnam's sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos is indisputable, based on the elements constituting a country's sovereignty over its territory, which is affirmation of state sovereignty and the recognized in the system of international law and custom. Vietnam is the only country that has geographical data, historical evidence, national and international legal basis for establishing and asserting its sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos. . The content of sea policy of the State of Vietnam in the process of establishing state sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos is always consistent with the international legal normative system on establishing sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos with a territory. That is, when a country establishes sovereignty over a territory, it must show its full state in terms of state, that is, that state has promulgated documents, policies and organization of administrative management of the territory that territory or not when it is not under the sovereignty of any country or territory, and the way to establish sovereignty must be done by an administrative organization directly under the state. In this respect, Vietnam is the only country in the East Sea region that fully meets the state's requirements for establishing sovereignty and asserting sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos in

terms of state regulations provisions of international law and international practice. The process of planning and implementing the sea policy of the State of Vietnam through the feudal dynasties has been clearly demonstrated throughout all historical periods, that content has been formed and continuously developed through state institutions. In particular, in the policy on sea and islands, the content affirms the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos. Historical evidence has proven that the process of establishing sovereignty over the entire sea and islands of the State of Vietnam, including the two archipelagos of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa, is one of the basic contents of the deployment process marine policy towards the feudal states of Vietnam. Throughout the country's long history of development, the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam over the seas and islands and the two archipelagos of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa in the East Sea has always been clearly defined shown through the basic contents of the process of making and implementing national maritime policies, this is completely consistent with the basic principles of international law on establishing sovereignty over the territories contemporary derelict. Vietnam during the Le - Trinh period (1592 - 1788), witnessed the southern expansion of the Nguyen Dynasty in Dang Trong. Since Lord Nguyen Hoang (1558 - 1613), laid the foundation for the expansion of the territory, culminating in Lord Nguyen Phuc Nguyen (1613 - 1635), the lord of the opening feats of the early 17th century(1). During this period, Vietnam's sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos was established and put into management and exploitation in a synchronous manner, both civil and military. Over the historical periods, the Vietnamese State institutions have always asserted sovereignty, managed and exploited the two archipelagos of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa as well as other sea and islands under sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction of the State of Vietnam. However, due to historical problems, the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos in the East Sea has been

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violated by some countries and territories in the region. and the basic principles of international law as well as the contents of the United Nations Charter and the provisions of modern international law of the sea have completely illegally invaded the Hoang Sa archipelago and a number of rocky islands in the archipelago. Truong Sa island belongs to the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam. This has resulted in a struggle in terms of historical evidence and international legal basis, national law, and diplomacy in order to affirm the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam over the two countries. Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes is a long but glorious, difficult and very complicated struggle.

Approaching the international legal basis from the results of analyzing the content of a number of international treaties related to the establishment of territorial sovereignty, showing the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes is natural. The basic contents stipulated in international treaties can be considered as one of the important legal bases for the State of Vietnam to serve as a basis for the long-term struggle to affirm the sovereignty of Vietnam. force concerned parties with unreasonable claims to sovereignty to return the Hoang Sa archipelago and a number of rocky islands, reefs and shoals in the Truong Sa archipelago to the State of Vietnam in accordance with international law by peaceful means to settle disputes over territorial sovereignty. With regard to the Paracel Islands under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam, China has twice illegally occupied the islands by force: in 1956 China illegally occupied the eastern island group by force and in 1974 the western group of islands. West. This is the act of using force to invade the territory of the State of Vietnam - a sovereign country. Therefore, this behavior is not recognized by international law to constitute territorial sovereignty. The Charter of the United Nations stipulates: All member states of the United Nations renounce the threat of force or the use of force in international relations in order to oppose territorial inviolability or independence political establishment of any country as well as in any other way contrary to the purposes of the United Nations(2). For the Truong Sa archipelago, in 1988 China used force to occupy six rocky islands under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam, including: Fiery Cross, Chau Vien, Gaven, TuNghia, also known as Huy Go., Gac Ma and Xu Bi. China's act of using force to invade six rocky islands in the Spratly archipelago under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam is a serious violation of the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam and the content of the United Nations Charter and the basic principles of modern international law. Practice shows that the international legal system does not recognize sovereignty for any country if that territory is acquired by forceful invasion of another country. Thus, from the content of the United Nations Charter to the principles of modern international law, it is very clear that the act of using force to invade another country's territory is an illegal and unconstitutional act. Time may gradually pass over the years, but the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes is immutable, unchanging and recognized by international law.

#### **Overview of six rocky islands in the Spratly archipelago under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam, illegally occupied by China by force**

Although the world has entered the 21st century - an era of civilization and progress of mankind, it is not infringing on the territorial sovereignty of other countries and respecting

international law and regional commitments. But with its plot to monopolize the East Sea, China has taken many steps with a roadmap and synchronously from making maritime policy, infringing on the sovereignty of some countries in the East Sea region to the maritime activities. Reclamation of rocky islands and sea filling around artificial islands in the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes is under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam. These actions of the Chinese side have gone (3) against the spirit of the content of the United Nations Charter and the provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, of which China is a signatory as well as violating the Declaration of the Parties on Conduct in the East Sea signed by China in 2002 in Cambodia. The Spratly Islands are located in the southeast of our country in the range of latitude from 6030'N to 12000'N, longitude from 111030'E to 117030'E. The Spratly Islands include more than one hundred rocky islands, coral reefs and coral reefs, scattered over a wide sea from west to east about nearly 350 nautical miles, from north to south about more than 360 nautical miles, occupies a sea area of about 160,000 to 180,000 square kilometers. Six rocky islands and atolls such as Fiery Cross, Chau Vien, Gaven, TuNghia also known as Huy Go, Gac Ma and Subi are located in the archipelago of Truong Sa archipelago under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam.

**Cross Beach:** Fiery Cross Reef, internationally known as Fiery Cross Reef or North West Investigator Reef, is one of the geographical features in the Truong Sa archipelago under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam located at coordinates 9035'N, 112054'E, stretching in the northeast - southwest direction. Fiery Cross Reef has a length of 14 nautical miles, a total area of about 110 square kilometers and is considered one of the largest geographical features in the Spratlys. At high tide, Fiery Cross Reef is submerged under water, but there are still some points at high tide that still float on the water. Fiery Cross Reef has an important military geostrategic position in the Spratly archipelago. Is a geographical entity located in the Spratly archipelago under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam. Before 1988, China had not been present in the Spratly Islands in general and Fiery Cross Reef in particular. Until the end of January 1988, China used force to illegally occupy Fiery Cross Reef under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam. In the period before 2014, at Fiery Cross Reef China built a marine garrison station equipped with a number of radar and surveillance equipment. In addition, China has built a helipad, a coastal gun and artillery platform, and an anti-command grenade launcher. In order to improve the lives of the troops stationed on Fiery Cross Reef, China built a house to grow vegetables. Since August 2014, China has accelerated the scale of reclamation of Fiery Cross Reef into an artificial island, by 2015 China has built up a land about 3,000 m long and 200 to 300 m wide. Satellite photos taken in February 2015 show that the area of artificial islands on Fiery Cross Reef has reached 2.65 km<sup>2</sup>, so this area is three times larger than the area of Ba Binh Island - the largest natural island. The Spratly Islands are under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam, but currently Taiwan is illegally occupying.

**Chau Vien rock beach**” Cuarteron Reef, internationally known as Cuarteron Reef, is one of the geographical features in the Truong Sa archipelago under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam located at coordinates 8053'N, 112051'05"E. The State of Vietnam is the only country in the East Sea region and in the world that has sovereignty over the entire Truong Sa archipelago in general and Chau Vien reef in particular. From

a geographical perspective, Chau Vien Reef has a length of 3 nautical miles along the East-West axis, equivalent to 5.56 km and an area of 8 km<sup>2</sup>. Except for a few prominent points in the north with an elevation of 1.6 m above sea level, most of Chau Vien rocks are submerged under water at high tide.



Satellite image taken from Chau Vien rock beach on February 10, 2015. Source: Victor Robert Lee and Airbus Defense Aerospace.

Chau Vien Reef is one of the geographical features in the Truong Sa archipelago that is an integral part of Vietnam's territory, but China illegally occupied Chau Vien Reef by force on February 18, 1988. China's illegal occupation of the island by force violates the United Nations Charter, the use of force to invade the island is contrary to international law and does not constitute sovereignty in all respects. At Chau Vien Reef as of January 2015, China has reclaimed 0.3 to 04 square kilometers of new land. On the rocky island of Chau Vien, China has built including a garrison station, a sea wall, a helipad and a military port. With its island-turning plot, China is accelerating the progress of dredging and filling the sea to build Chau Vien reef into a large man-made island with ports, airports and military housing systems.

**Beach Station Ven:** Ga Ven Beach, internationally known as Gaven Reefs, is one of the geographical features in the Spratly Islands under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam, located at coordinates 10012'N, 114013'E. Ga Ven Beach includes two reefs that are semi-floating and semi-submerged at high tide: Ga Ven rock in the north and Lac rock in the south. Ga Ven beach is located in the territorial sea of Nam Yet island and is 7 nautical miles east of Nam Yet island and 8.5 nautical miles northeast. Ga Ven rock in the north has an area of about 0.86 km<sup>2</sup>, Lac rock in the south is smaller, with an area of 0.67 km<sup>2</sup>. At least since the 17th century, the State of Vietnam has asserted state sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes, the State of Vietnam has managed and exploited in a synchronous manner while bringing the The civil and military character is reflected in the establishment of two teams Hoang Sa and Bac Hai. However, despite international law in February 1988, China used force to occupy Ga Ven Shoal under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam. At Gaven Reef, China has also deployed garrison troops, in addition, China has also conducted illegal island reclamation. China has built to the west of the reef a large concrete paddock with a dock along with numerous gun emplacements, radar and other communications equipment. On Gaven Rock, China built a square-shaped building with another entity resembling an anti-aircraft tower. Like some other places, China has used dredgers and tugs to serve dredging and reclamation in order to build Ga Ven Reef into an artificial island. This is an illegal action of China that has been calculated in advance with a clear roadmap to renovate Ga Ven Reef into a military base.

**TuNghia beach is also known as Huy Go beach:** TuNghia Reef, internationally known as Hughes Reef, is one of the geographical features in the Truong Sa archipelago under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam located at coordinates 9055'N, 114030'E. TuNghia beach belongs to Sinh Ton island cluster and lies in the territorial sea of Sinh Ton island. At low tide, TuNghia beach emerges on the water. China used force to illegally occupy TuNghia Reef under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam in February 1988. At TuNghia beach, also known as Huy Go beach, China is building an artificial island, as of 2015 this artificial island has a width of 75,000 m<sup>2</sup>. Before 2014, there was only one solid construction on TuNghia beach with an area of 380 m<sup>2</sup>, up to now, China has built on TuNghia beach a square main house for garrison troops and an anti-aircraft tower.

**Gac Ma rock island:** Gac Ma Island, known internationally as Johnson South Reef, is one of the geographical features in the Truong Sa archipelago under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam located at coordinates 9042'N, 114017'E. Gac Ma is a brown reef surrounded by a belt of white coral. Through research from many sources, it has been shown that some large rocks in the southeast of the reef emerge above the water at high tide, with the largest one being 1.2 m high, while other parts of the reef are submerged under water country. Gac Ma is considered as the southeast end point of Sinh Ton island cluster with an area of about 7 km<sup>2</sup>. Gac Ma rock island has a very important military geostrategic position in the East Sea area, identifying this important position China used force to illegally occupy Gac Ma rock island under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam. Nam from March 14, 1988. Writing about Gac Ma rock island, we cannot help but remember the image of 64 officers and soldiers of the Vietnam People's Navy who heroically sacrificed themselves to protect maritime sovereignty sacred island of the Fatherland. The page of the history of Vietnam's sovereignty over the seas and islands of the Fatherland, especially the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes, was written with drops of red blood, which was exchanged for the entire life of the class outstanding son. Vietnam's sovereignty over the two islands of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa is one of the most beautiful and tragic pages in the history of thousands of years of national construction and defense of our nation, which any Vietnamese Every genuine person needs to know how to cherish and preserve, not only for today, but also for generations to come. At Gac Ma rock island China has carried out many constructions on Gac Ma rock island, China considers Gac Ma and Fiery Cross as two important strategic military positions. Therefore, the speed and scale of reclamation to become artificial islands at these two rocky islands is very fast and large with many works such as a two-story building system for the garrison, a wharf and a military airport. . At Gac Ma Island, China built a breakwater around Gac Ma Island, an airport and a military wharf. The speed of transforming Gac Ma rock island to become an artificial island from 2014 to 2015 is very large with a system of many military works.

**Subi rock beach:** Subi Reef, known internationally as Subi, is one of the geographical features in the Spratly Islands under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam located at coordinates 10054'N, 114006'E. Subi Reef is shaped like a diamond with a long axis located in the East - Northeast direction, about 3.7 nautical miles in length and a shorter axis with a length of about 2.7 nautical miles. Xu Bi rock is located in ThiTu island cluster and is about 14 nautical miles from ThiTuisland. In

1988, China, with cunning and cunning, used force to illegally occupy the Subi Reef under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam. Subi Reef is one of the geographical features illegally occupied by China by force, located the farthest north. At Subi Reef, China built a helipad, a concrete guard post for the garrison. The system of dredgers and tugs has been deployed and renovated to become an artificial island in Subi Reef. In addition to the above six points, China is currently speeding up its reclamation to become an artificial island at Mischief Reef, internationally known as Mischief Reef, located at coordinates 9055'N, 115032'E, far from Sinh island cluster. About 50 nautical miles or 92.6 km. Thus, the Chinese side's act of reclamation of six reefs in the Spratly archipelago under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam is a violation of international law and regional commitments, as well as a violation of the international legal system on environmental protection protect and preserve the marine environment. The act of renovating rocky islands, filling the sea around the rocky islands and dredging the sea to build a military wharf has seriously violated the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam.

### **The violation of international law during China's illegal reclamation of rocks in the Spratly archipelago**

China's actions to renovate rocks and fill the sea around six rocky islands and shoals in the Spratly archipelago under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam have been carefully calculated by China and have a roadmap in its plot to poison the sea occupied the East Sea. As early as the middle of 1988, China carried out measuring and surveying these points after illegally occupying them by force. At the same time, the prefabricated concrete blocks as well as materials are quietly sent by China to the means of transport from the mainland. In fact, the design of constructions on Ga Ven, TuNghia and Gac Ma rocky islands are relatively similar. This shows that China has a process of building on these points to become artificial islands that has been standardized and synchronized. With the conspiracy to monopolize the East Sea, therefore, the works built by China on the rocky islands are of military nature such as a system of military wharfs, gun emplacements, radar stations, airports and housing systems for people garrison. Depending on the time, China conducts reclamation, reclamation, dredging and filling of six rocky islands and shoals in the Spratly archipelago under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam. China has studied in detail the weather and climate of the East Sea area as well as the reflection of international public opinion and its diversionary actions to carry out the transportation of materials, dredging, construction and filled the sea around six geographical entities: Cross, Chau Vien, Gaven, TuNghia, also known as Huy Go, Gac Ma and Subi. China's actions to renovate rocky islands and shoals into artificial islands have violated basic principles of modern international law, the contents of the United Nations Charter and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The 1982 International Law of the Sea, regional commitments as well as other relevant international treaties. The reclamation and reclamation of rocky islands into artificial islands have been strongly opposed by the international and regional community through bilateral, international and regional forums such as the Sangri-La Dialogue in 2015. The US and Japan have protested China's reclamation of rocks and demanded that China permanently stop these activities. China's actions to renovate rocks and shoals into artificial islands have affected the marine environment and marine ecological system. The United Nations Convention on the International Law of the Sea

stipulates: States in enclosed or semi-enclosed coastal areas should cooperate with each other in the exercise of their rights and the performance of their obligations under the Convention. For this purpose, directly or through an appropriate regional organization, these States shall endeavor to: Collaborate in the management, conservation, exploration and exploitation of the living resources of the sea. Coordinate in the exercise of their rights and the performance of their obligations related to the protection and preservation of the marine environment. Coordinate their scientific research policies and, where possible, implement joint scientific research programs in the area under consideration. If possible, invite other States or relevant international organizations to cooperate with them in the application of this article (4).

In fact, in addition, articles 192 - 196, 207 - 298 of the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea clearly stipulate that states must not do anything harmful to the environment, have the obligation to prevent and reduce minimize and control pollution of the marine environment from any source. China's reclamation of rocks, shoals, shoals and sea filling on geographical features in the Spratly archipelago under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam also violates the content of the Convention on Biological Diversity. 1992, the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as well as the Resolutions of the World Environment Conference. China's activities such as sea dredging and sea filling around six geographical features in the Spratly archipelago during the construction of artificial islands have changed the surrounding marine environment, destroying the habitats of creatures sea, damaging coral reefs, directly threatening the common interests of the international community. This is contrary to international law, which requires states while waiting for dispute resolution not to take unilateral actions that lead to permanent changes in the marine environment. China's fallacy in the process of reclamation of rocks, shoals and sea filling to turn rocky islands into artificial islands. China has always justified its actions as the purpose of serving search and rescue in the East Sea and improving the location of the garrison. On May 26, 2015, Ms. Hua Chunying, spokesperson of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, when answering the press about China's actions in the East Sea, said that: China's main purpose when building islands in the South China Sea. Nansha is to better fulfill the international responsibilities and obligations assumed by the Chinese side such as search and rescue, disaster prevention, marine scientific research, meteorological observation, ecological environment protection, maritime security, fishery production services. She said that China will continue to build other civil works on the relevant islands in Nansha to better serve the ships of countries in the South China Sea and other countries passing through, she said . Obviously these are fallacious arguments of the Chinese side to justify its illegal actions. Based on the legal basis and absolute sovereignty of the State of Vietnam, China has no right to renovate the rocky islands and shoals in the Spratly archipelago under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam.

### **Conclusion**

China's campaign to monopolize the East Sea has taken another step forward when China continues to build up six reefs in the Spratly archipelago under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam into artificial islands. China's illegal construction and expansion of works on rocks and changes in

the status quo in the Spratly Islands area under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam. These actions not only seriously infringe upon the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam but also violate the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the East Sea approved by the United Nations signed between China and ASEAN in 2002 in Cambodia. Through diplomatic channels, Vietnam has repeatedly communicated with the Chinese side to protest against the wrong, illegal and worthless actions of the Chinese side in the East Sea area, especially the reclamation actions on islands in the Hoang Sa archipelago and six rocky island points in the Truong Sa archipelago under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam. Vietnam has sufficient legal grounds and historical evidence to assert its sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos.

The practice of international law, as well as international practice, does not recognize sovereignty over acts of using force to invade territory. China's illegal reclamation of six rocky islands in the Spratly archipelago under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam to become artificial islands will not create sovereignty over China in all respects. Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations stipulates: To maintain international peace and security and to that end, to take effective collective measures for the prevention and elimination of threats to peace, prohibit all acts of aggression and other destruction of the peace; regulate or settle disputes or situations of an international character which may lead to the destruction of peace, by peaceful means in accordance with the principles of justice and international law. The Chinese side's act of invading six rocky islands in the Spratly archipelago under the sovereignty of the State of Vietnam is an act of aggression, so there is no legal basis for China to assert its sovereignty and all rights and interests. The act of reclamation of rocky islands and filling the surrounding sea to become artificial islands also never constitutes sovereignty. As analyzed, in the modern world, international law does not recognize the acquisition of sovereignty by conquest or invasion. For example, Resolution No. 2625 of October 24, 1974 of the United Nations General Assembly, Declaration on the Principles of Public International Law on Relations and Cooperation between States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations: The territory of a state cannot be the subject of a military occupation following the use of force contrary to the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. The territory of one state cannot be the subject of acquisition by another state following the use of force or the threat of force. No acquisition of territory by threat or use of force shall be recognized as lawful."

The international and regional communities are taking measures to fight against China's actions of reclamation and reclamation around the rocks at bilateral, international and regional forums such as the Conference. Sangri-La 14 dialogue took place in Singapore from 29-31 May 2015. The conference included many discussion sessions covering key topics such as Asia-Pacific security challenges, new forms of security cooperation in Asia, prevention of conflict escalation, and avoidance of races arms in Asia as well as confidence-building measures across regions. At the 14th Sangri-La Dialogue Conference, the international and regional community asked China to strictly implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the East Sea, making practical contributions to maintaining peace stability in the South China Sea. In his presentation with the theme: A regional security architecture where all grow together, the US Secretary of Defense

reaffirmed: The principle of peaceful dispute settlement and affirmed that the US will exercise its right to resolve disputes by peaceful means freedom of navigation by sea and by air in accordance with international law. Carter also called on China to immediately and permanently stop building artificial islands in the South China Sea. According to the US Defense Secretary, along with the development of both Asia and the US, many challenges are emerging in the region, such as the situation in North Korea, the decades-long disputes over the reefs created by the US should dispute over fishing rights, energy, freedom of navigation on international sea and air routes. Also within the framework of the 14th Shangri-La Dialogue, Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani on May 31, 2015 also warned that illegal artificial island building activities in the East Sea have the risk of pushing region into chaos, while urging China to behave responsibly. Speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue, Mr. Gen Nakatani stated: If all illegal situations are left to themselves, order will soon be overturned, and peace and stability will no longer exist. He also hopes and expects all countries, including China, to behave responsibly.

April 15, 2015 G7 countries spoke out: The G7 Foreign Ministers' Statement on Maritime Security stated: We are committed to maintaining a maritime order based on the principles of international law economy, especially as reflected in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. We continue to observe the situation in the East China Sea and South China Sea and are concerned about any unilateral actions, such as such as large-scale land reclamation, which changes the status quo and increases tensions. We strongly oppose any attempt to assert territorial sovereignty and maritime claims through the use of threats, coercion or force. We call on all countries to comply with the peaceful management or settlement of maritime disputes in accordance with international law, including through internationally recognized legal dispute settlement mechanisms and fully implement all mandatory decisions of the relevant courts and arbitrators. We emphasize the importance of the coastal state to refrain from unilateral actions that cause lasting physical alteration to the marine environment while awaiting final delimitation. Thus, from the international community to the region, they have voiced their opposition to China's wrongdoing and continue to closely monitor all activities of the Chinese side in the East Sea area. We continue to persistently fight by legal, political and diplomatic means, and enlist the support of the international and regional community to demand that China return the Paracel Islands and six islands in the South China Sea. Truong Sa archipelago to the State of Vietnam by peaceful means in accordance with international law.

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