

III. Philippine Leaders Take Their Stand Against Obama's Thermonuclear War

Philippines Revolts Against Obama's War on China

Nov. 16 (EIRNS)—A revolutionary change is taking place in the Philippines, threatening to collapse President Obama's mad drive for nuclear confrontation with China. That plan, first launched as Obama's "Pivot to Asia" in 2012, involves shifting expanded naval, air, and land forces to Asia, along with enhanced ballistic missile defense systems, in a ring around China and the Russian Far East.

Most importantly, it includes Obama's plan to re-occupy the Philippines militarily with the most advanced naval, air, and ground forces and military equipment.

Now, faced with Russian President Putin's brilliant flanking action against Obama's war policy in Europe and the Middle East—by waging an effective war on ISIS in cooperation with the Syrian government and others—Obama has responded by focussing with a vengeance on his policy of war against China.

Obama and his subservient President of the Philippines, Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino, are attempting to circumvent the Philippine Constitution, which, since 1991, has explicitly forbidden the presence of any foreign military bases on Philippine soil. Their ploy is to pretend that the new U.S. bases are not bases at all, but will be set up within Philippine military bases, with the Americans declared to be merely "guests."

Aquino further claims that the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) which enables this charade, is not a treaty, but only an "executive agreement," and thus does not require the approval of the Philippine Senate, as required by law for such a treaty.



Xinhua/Rouelle Umali

Philippine President Benigno Aquino (right) greets Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the presidential palace in Manila Nov. 10, 2015.

Fortunately, this scam is falling apart, thanks to a series of actions and interventions by patriots of the Philippines, joined by American patriots who recognize the threat of global thermonuclear war inherent in Obama's confrontation with China. These actions, documented below, include:

- A declaration by Filipinos in Solidarity for Sovereignty (PINAS)—which has also taken the EDCA to the Supreme Court on constitutional grounds—saying that the recent U.S. military provocations against Chinese territories in the South China Sea bring the world to the brink of war, and exemplify why the Philippines must reject the U.S. military occupation.

- A friend of the court (Petition for Intervention) brief by U.S. Senator Mike Gravel (Alaska 1969-81) to the Philippine Supreme Court, arguing on moral, his-

torical, and political grounds that the re-occupation of the Philippines must be stopped.

- A call by Philippine Senator Kit Tatad (1992-2001) for the Philippines to declare official neutrality.

- A dramatic vote in the Philippine Senate on November 9, passing a resolution by a vote of 15-1 that declares that the EDCA is indeed a treaty and must be approved by the Senate. The resolution—brought by Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago, a presidential candidate for the 2016 election—pre-empted the the Supreme Court, which had leaked that its decision would approve the EDCA and would be released on November 16, the day before President Obama is scheduled to arrive in the Philippines for the annual APEC Summit.

Obama's effort to be ordained the new governor-general of a colonial Philippines has been thwarted, thus far.

Revolt Across Asia

These developments in the Philippines come at a time when the rest of Asia is also reacting against Obama's war drive. A meeting of the defense ministers of the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) plus the United States, China, Japan, and others, on Nov. 13 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, rejected Obama's demand, delivered by U.S. Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, that the final communiqué denounce China for "aggression" in the South China Sea. No communiqué was issued as a result.

In fact, China's President Xi Jinping on Nov. 6 visited Vietnam—one of the countries Obama has encouraged to denounce Chinese "aggression" in the South China Sea—and the two nations re-established strong strategic ties. Then Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Manila to prepare for President Xi's visit for the APEC Summit. President Aquino promised that the South China Sea issue would not be on the APEC agenda.

The ASEAN members naturally want to be part of China's New Silk Road projects for real development, rather than Obama's anti-China alliance. But they also increasingly recognize that the militarization of the region is not coming from China, which is only building up islands already under their control, but from Obama, whose plan for at least eight U.S. military bases in the Philippines even includes two in the South

China Sea, on Palawan Island—and they want no part of it.

LaRouche's Role

In several of these developments, friends of Lyndon LaRouche are playing a crucial role. In their own words, here is the documentation of the courageous steps taken by citizens of a small nation to prevent the madness of a global thermonuclear war, and to demand development as the basis for peace.

Is Neutrality an Option for the Philippines?

by Francisco S. Tatad

Nov. 16—The following (edited) op-ed in the Manila Times was written by Francisco "Kit" Tatad, Minister of Public Information under President Ferdinand Marcos from 1969 to 1980, and Senator of the Philippines from 1992 to 2001. Sen. Tatad is a founding member of the National Transformation Council.

The Prospect of War

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13 (EIRNS)—Given the maritime conflict between China and Japan, between China and the Philippines, and America's concern over China's conduct in the disputed areas, armed hostilities could arise between China on the one hand, and the United States and Japan on the other, with the Philippines probably absorbing some of the missiles. This is the fear of some Filipino analysts I have met here.

... The Philippines is not militarily prepared for any war, but by talking like it very badly needs to take on the Asian hegemon, the Aquino regime may have created a situation nobody wants or is ready for. ...

The Idea of Being Neutral

One analyst, who asked that I withhold his name, has proposed one such unthinkable question. Given the growing rivalry between the United States and China, and the distinct possibility that we might get caught in the middle, if and when it explodes into a