

While Pursuing Peaceful Development, China's Leadership Prepares for War

by William Jones

Nov. 9—On Oct. 18, China began the first combined weapons open-sea drill in which maritime and air forces from all three of the country's fleets took part. This also included the first major public viewing of missile launches from China's submarine fleet. Occurring in the context of the heightened tensions in the Asia-Pacific region, brought about by the U.S. "pivot" and its provocative Air-Sea Battle Doctrine, the message which China delivered is that while it pursues a clear policy of peaceful development, it is prepared for war, if war were to come.

The maneuver, titled "Maneuver 5, lasted roughly two weeks, from Oct. 18 to Nov. 1. It was unusual in two respects. First, these were open-sea maneuvers with combined forces, the first of their kind for the Chinese fleet; and second, they were conducted in what is called "back-to-back" format. The maneuver involved flotillas from all three of the Chinese fleets—North Sea, East Sea, and South Sea Fleets.

Dividing the groups into opposing "red" and "blue" teams, the scenario also included a "back-to-back" feature, which, Rear Admiral Liao Shining explained, "simulates the uncertainties in wars. . . . During the exercise, both the 'Red Army' and the 'Blue Army' had no idea of each other's position, navigation factors, or operational intentions. The directing department only carried out guidance work with few interventions made in order to let both parties establish their independent combat systems, and organize their independent reconnaissance and pre-warning, command and control, as well as assault actions."

Dangerous Intrusion

While the maneuvers were envisioned as war "games," a dangerous intrusion by Japanese vessels into the area could well have turned this into a more serious matter. While the Chinese maneuver had been announced far ahead of time, and a warning for ships to

stay out of the zone during the maneuver period had been issued, a ship of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force forced its way into the drill zone on Oct. 25, remaining there until Oct. 28.

In addition, during the navigation of the Chinese Navy fleet to the drill area, warships and aircraft of the Japanese Self-Defense Force conducted intensive tracking, surveillance, and monitoring. China issued a protest to the Japanese government: "These actions by the Japanese ships and aircraft have not only disturbed our legitimate drills," Chinese Defense Ministry spokesman Yang Yujun told reporters, "but also imposed hazards to the navigation safety of our ships and aircraft, and may even lead to misjudgment, misfire, and other incidents."

Media Blitz Serves as a Warning

The maneuver was accompanied by an extensive media blitz covering the development of China's submarine force since the 1970s. CCTV carried extensive coverage of the submarine fleet's missile launches, the first time such launches were shown to the general public. *People's Daily*, *Global Times*, *PLA Daily*, and *China Youth Daily* on Oct. 23 all had front-page stories on the Chinese submarine fleet. While the videos showed the activity of the Xia-class submarines used in the drill, the media also discussed the development of the more advanced Jin-class submarine, as well as an even more sophisticated Tang-class submarine.

Then, as something of a signal piece, *Global Times*, a daily published by the government-supported *People's Daily*, on Oct. 28, carried a lengthy article entitled "China for the First Time Possesses Effective Underwater Nuclear Deterrence Against the United States," noting that China had the capability to retaliate against a nuclear strike and could reach U.S. cities in the western United States. "This is the first time in 42 years

since the establishment of our Navy's strategic submarine force that we reveal on such a large scale the secrets of our first-generation underwater nuclear force," *Global Times* wrote.

The article was accompanied by maps showing trajectories to cities on the U.S. West Coast. "The 12 JL-2 nuclear warheads carried by one single Type 094 SSBN can kill and wound 5 million to 12 million Americans," the *Global Times* warned. The article featured 30 photos and graphics detailing, among other things, damage projections for Seattle and Los Angeles after being hit by Chinese nuclear warheads, and the deadly radiation that would spread all the way to Chicago.

Naval expert Col. Li Jie, at the Navy's military academy, speaking to *Global Times*, put it this way, "The changing international situation has caused containment to China's growth. The U.S.-Japan alliance and U.S. pivot to the Asia-Pacific both apparently target China. The publicity of the submarine force is a warning to any country that attempts to provoke China, telling them whoever makes the first strike should think about the consequences."

The Lessons of History

Even more provocative was a Chinese video, produced by China's National Defense University with the backing of the People's Liberation Army General Staff, entitled "Silent Contest." The video portrays the demise of the Soviet Union, a spectre which continues to haunt the Chinese leadership, which is intent on avoiding the pitfalls that led to that collapse and the near-destruction of the Russian nation. The documentary went through the Gorbachov "rapprochement" with the West, with extensive film footage of Gorbachov, Reagan, and Thatcher. This was followed by footage of the fall of Gorbachov, the storming of the White House in Moscow, and the rise of Yeltsin, who was then fêted by grateful Western leaders.

Following the demise of the Soviet Union and the victory of Yeltsin, Russia was "open for business," and within 10 years, was facing the worst financial crisis since the 1930s. Footage then shifts to scenes from Georgia and Ukraine and the "color revolutions," with statements by U.S. Senators Richard Lugar and John McCain about the importance of "exporting democracy." There are also extensive pictures from the various NGOs doing the "exporting"—the National Endowment for Democracy, the International

Republican Institute, and the National Democratic Institute. The video then shows footage from Victoria's Secret commercials, the jewelry channel, and advertisements for Bentleys and Mercedes, pointing to the way that Western values have served to undermine China.

The last section of the video returns to the "color revolutions," with footage of Mikhail Saakashvili at the U.S. Capitol, being fawned upon by legislators and the press. It shows similar footage with the Dalai Lama in the Capitol, and meeting Obama at the White House. It then shifts to footage of bodies, apparently victims of the riots in Tibet, or in the Chinese cities with large Tibetan populations. Next comes Uighur leader Rebiya Kadeer agitating on the streets of Washington, and pictures of riots in Xinjiang and the devastation they caused.

The film ends with scenes from the PLA on parade, which underlines the filmmakers' view of the key role the Army plays in preserving the sovereignty and integrity of the Chinese nation. While the video was quickly taken off the Weibo internet site, with Chinese officials obviously worried about its effect abroad and in China, it reflects some of the thinking within the Chinese military and the population at large.

While fairly provocative, the video gives an all-too-accurate description of what U.S. policy has become since the assassination of John F. Kennedy. What is lacking is any sense that there exists in the United States another tradition opposed to that Anglo-American imperial crowd, the London-Wall Street financial elites, whose policies are clearly depicted in the PLA video.

While Teddy Roosevelt (who makes a cameo appearance in the video), as well as George W. Bush and Barack Obama, fit the mold of the Anglo-American "hegemonist" depicted in "Silent Contest," George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt, and Lyndon LaRouche definitely do not. And if this "other America" were to emerge victorious in the fight for the "soul of America," with the reinstatement of Glass-Steagall and the development of the NAWAPA water development project, China and the United States could join hands across the Pacific to bring peace and development to the region and to the world. And given the nuclear capabilities now prevalent in any conflict between major powers, the alternative to peace is far too grim to even contemplate.