

SOUTH CHINA SEA NEWS No.85
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ACTS OF CLAIMANTS

29 August 2020: China urges US to stop making waves in S. China Sea

The United States should stop making waves and sowing discord in the South China Sea and play a constructive role in maintaining regional peace and stability, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Friday. Spokesperson Zhao Lijian made the comments at a daily news briefing in response to a question about U.S. Department of Defense claims Thursday that China launched a ballistic missile test in the South China Sea on the morning of Aug. 26, threatening regional peace and security. Relevant training activities near the Xisha Islands in the South China Sea are routine arrangements conducted by the Chinese military off China's coast. They are not targeted at any country and have nothing to do with the South China Sea disputes, said Zhao.

http://www.china.org.cn/world/2020-08/29/content_76648889.htm

28 August 2020: South China Sea: Malaysia rejects Philippines' Sabah claim in new diplomatic note

Malaysia has issued its second diplomatic note over the disputed South China Sea in the past month, this time pushing back against controversial Philippine territorial claims over the state of Sabah. The new note verbale to the United Nations, dated August 27, follows Putrajaya's July 29 note rebuking Beijing over its vast claims in the waters. This month's note shines a light on how the dispute is in fact a complex intramural row among all the claimants, and not one that simply pits regional giant China against Southeast Asian parties, a Malaysian source said.

<https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3099337/south-china-sea-malaysia-rejects-philippines-sabah-claim-new>

28 August 2020: Philippines will not stop air patrols over disputed South China Sea

The Philippines has announced that it will not stop air patrols over the disputed South China Sea despite Beijing's calls for it to halt such "illegal provocations." Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin said China was "free to say" what it wants over the patrols, but it will not affect Manila's actions. "We're going to continue our patrol because it's ours," he said in an interview with television cable news channel ANC. "They can call it illegal provocations, you can't change their minds," he added. "They already lost the arbitral award, they wouldn't accept it... It's a free world."

<https://www.thestar.com.my/aseanplus/aseanplus-news/2020/08/28/philippines-will-not-stop-air-patrols-over-disputed-south-china-sea>

27 August 2020: Navy guided-missile destroyer challenges Beijing's claims in the South China Sea

A U.S. Navy destroyer passed near contested islands in the South China Sea again Thursday, the same day Defense Secretary Mark Esper emphasized the Pentagon's intent to continue challenging Beijing's territorial claims in the region. The USS Mustin steamed near the Paracel Islands, its second cruise in the area this year, to challenge

“excessive maritime claims and reinforce laws of the sea in international waters,” according to a Navy statement.

<https://www.stripes.com/news/pacific/navy-guided-missile-destroyer-challenges-beijing-s-claims-in-the-south-china-sea-1.642933>

27 August 2020: China Fires Missiles into South China Sea, Sending U.S. a Message

China has fired a barrage of medium-range missiles across considerable distances into the South China Sea, Beijing’s latest move to demonstrate its strategic dominance and sovereignty over the disputed waters.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/27/world/asia/missiles-south-china-sea.html>

26 August 2020: Vietnam condemns new Chinese military drills in South China Sea

Vietnam on Wednesday accused China of violating its sovereignty by conducting military drills in a disputed part of the South China Sea and said Beijing's actions were "complicating" negotiations on establishing a code of conduct in the region.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/rest-of-world/vietnam-condemns-new-chinese-military-drills-in-south-china-sea/articleshow/77760320.cms>

26 August 2020: Chinese diplomat elected to maritime disputes tribunal amid South China Sea tension and US objection

Despite the opposition of the United States, a Chinese diplomat was elected as a judge to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (Itlos) to hear and settle maritime disputes at a time when China faces rising tensions with its neighbours over the South China Sea.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3098818/chinese-diplomat-elected-maritime-disputes-tribunal-amid-south>

25 August 2020: India-Vietnam meeting discusses China’s destabilising actions

China’s destabilising actions in the region figured at a meeting on Tuesday of the India-Vietnam joint commission on trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation, during which the two countries agreed to work more closely together in the Indo-Pacific.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-vietnam-meeting-discusses-china-s-destabilising-actions/story-paRUZjoMdiS709T8F5LgVJ.html>

26 August 2020: China Strengthens Navy Base in South China Sea for Aircraft Carriers

New intelligence suggests that China will soon have its aircraft carriers permanently based in the South China Sea. The Chinese Navy, known as the PLAN (People’s Liberation Army Navy), is strengthening a strategic base on Hainan. It appears that a gigantic dry dock is being built, big enough for an aircraft carrier. Together with a pier already visited by the carriers, this suggests that they will be stationed there. Currently the carriers spend a lot of their time further north.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/hisutton/2020/08/26/china-strengthens-key-navy-base-in-south-china-sea-for-aircraft-carriers/#14323d40561b>

26 August 2020: US blacklists Chinese individuals, firms for South China Sea work

The United States on Wednesday (Aug 26) announced sanctions and restrictions on 24 Chinese companies and associated officials for taking part in building artificial islands in disputed waters in the South China Sea.

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/south-china-sea-us-targets-chinese-individuals-companies-13056044>

24 August 2020: China's navy drills in 4 regions show ability to counter US, observers say

Maritime safety administrations in four locations issued notices between Friday and Sunday announcing drills, and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) said exercises had been completed in another. The locations included two in the South China Sea, one in the East China Sea, one further north in the Yellow Sea, and one in the Bohai Gulf, the innermost gulf of the Yellow Sea.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3098671/chinas-navy-drills-4-regions-show-ability-counter-us-observers>

24 August 2020: China seeking talks with Vietnam over S. China Sea

China has urged Vietnam to sit for dialogue to solve territorial issues in the South China Sea. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh on Sunday. Both ministers were attending a ceremony in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in southern China commemorating the 20th anniversary of the demarcation of the land boundary between the two countries.

https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20200824_08/

23 August 2020: China to hold military training in South China Sea, Bohai Sea

China will conduct military training in the South China Sea from August 24 to 29, the Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration said on Sunday. In addition, firing practice will take place in the Bohai Sea from August 24 to September 30, according to Tangshan Maritime Safety Administration.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-08-23/China-to-hold-military-training-in-South-China-Sea-Bohai-Sea-TbKTT2nPlm/index.html>

23 August 2020: China Urges Philippines to Halt 'Illegal Provocations' at Sea

China's patrols in the South China Sea are "beyond reproach" and air patrols by the Philippines infringe on its sovereignty, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said. Zhao, at a briefing on Friday, defended the China Coast Guard's activities and urged the Philippines to "immediately stop" what he described as "illegal provocations."

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-08-23/china-urges-philippines-to-halt-illegal-provocations-at-sea?utm_source=google&utm_medium=bd&cmpId=google

21 August 2020: Vietnam is warning about Chinese bombers deployed to disputed South China Sea islands

The presence of Chinese bombers on the disputed Paracel islands in the South China Sea "jeopardises peace," Vietnam's foreign ministry said on Thursday, in another sign of disapproval in the region of Beijing's increased defence activities.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/vietnam-warning-chinese-bombers-disputed-south-china-sea-islands-2020-8>

21 August 2020: Wang Yi: China willing to work with Indonesia to safeguard peace in South China Sea

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Thursday said China is willing to work with ASEAN countries, including Indonesia, to safeguard the peace and stability in the South China Sea. The negotiation of the South China Sea Code of Conduct follows the principle of equal consultation and reflects the consensus of China and ASEAN countries, Wang said during a meeting with Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi in China's Hainan Province.

<http://www.ecns.cn/news/politics/2020-08-21/detail-iffzismq8704484.shtml>

21 August 2020: PH protests China's 'illegal confiscation' of Filipino fishermen's 'payaos' in Scarborough

The Philippines on Thursday filed a diplomatic protest against China over the "illegal confiscation" of fish aggregating devices installed by Filipino fishermen in a Philippine-claimed shoal off Zambales.

<https://globalnation.inquirer.net/190332/ph-protests-chinas-illegal-confiscation-of-filipino-fishermens-payaos-in-scarborough#ixzz6Vk9CQBZ3>

20 August 2020: Vietnam says Chinese bomber at disputed islands 'jeopardises peace'

The presence of Chinese bombers in the disputed Paracel islands in the South China Sea "jeopardises peace" in the region, Vietnam's foreign ministry spokeswoman said on Thursday (Aug 20). "The fact that relevant sides sent weapons and bombers to the East Sea not only violates Vietnam's sovereignty but also jeopardises the situation in the area," ministry spokeswoman Le Thi Thu Hang said at a regular briefing.

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asia/vietnam-paracel-islands-south-china-sea-chinese-bomber-13037930>

19 August 2020: US-China relations: US warship sails through Taiwan Strait under scrutiny from Beijing

The United States sent a warship through the Taiwan Strait on Tuesday in what it said was a demonstration of its "commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific", as military tensions between Washington, Beijing and Taipei in the region continue to simmer. According to the US Pacific Fleet, the US Navy Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Mustin conducted a routine transit through the waterway that separates Taiwan from the Chinese mainland.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3097977/us-china-relations-us-warship-sails-through-taiwan-strait?utm_medium=email&utm_source=mailchimp&utm_campaign=enlz-scmp_china&utm_content=20200819&tpcc=enlz-scmp_china&MCUID=cf7776827f&MCCampaignID=c4fb0795ad&MCAccountID=3775521f5f542047246d9c827&tc=5

17 August 2020: Taiwan excluded from RIMPAC war games as US avoids crossing Beijing's red line

Taiwan has been excluded from the US-led Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC) in what analysts see as a sign that Washington is treading carefully to avoid crossing Beijing's red line on the self-ruled island.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3097658/taiwans-air-force-renews-order-pilots-not-fire-first-shot-amid?utm_medium=email&utm_source=mailchimp&utm_campaign=enlz-scmp_china&utm_content=20200817&tpcc=enlz-scmp_china&MCUID=cf7776827f&MCCampaignID=3d23d2ce03&MCAccountID=3775521f5f542047246d9c827&tc=5

17 August 2020: Malaysia coast guard kill Vietnamese fisherman in South China Sea clash

The Malaysian coast guard shot dead a Vietnamese fisherman whose boat tried to ram a patrol vessel in the South China Sea, an official said Monday. The incident took place inside Malaysian waters, where local fisherman have complained in the past about Vietnamese fishing boats that damage their nets.

<https://www.wionews.com/world/malaysia-coast-guard-kill-vietnamese-fisherman-in-south-china-sea-clash-321165>

16 August 2020: Hong Kong-based warship joins South China Sea live-fire drill

The People's Liberation Army garrison in Hong Kong released footage of a live-fire drill in the South China Sea on Sunday, a day after the US navy said a strike group led by the USS Ronald Reagan had carried out operations in the area.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3097581/hong-kong-based-warship-joins-south-china-sea-live-fire-drill>

16 August 2020: Annual fishing ban ends in South China Sea

The summer fishing moratorium ended on Sunday in the South China Sea. The fishing moratorium starting on May 1 has been considered as the toughest in history, with a number of new technologies such as satellite positioning, video surveillance and big data management used as new approaches for the maritime law enforcement.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-08/16/c_139295056.htm

17 August 2020: Kalayaan LGU names 6 sandbars, reefs in West Philippine Sea

In a move to assert sovereignty over the country's territory, the municipal government of Kalayaan islands in Palawan has officially named sandbars and reefs in the West Philippine Sea.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/08/17/2035851/kalayaan-lgu-names-6-sandbars-reefs-west-philippine-sea>

16 August 2020: Committee to inspect Pratas Islands

The Legislative Yuan's Internal Administration Committee is on Thursday to inspect the Pratas Islands. Committee chair and Legislator Chen Yu-chen, of the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT), in late May had scheduled a visit to the islands and invited then-Kaohsiung

mayor Han Kuo-yu in the hopes that it would boost his popularity ahead of a June recall vote against Han. The trip was canceled due to poor weather and Han was ultimately recalled.

<https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2020/08/16/2003741768>

14 August 2020: Chinese Military Told to Prevent Escalation in Interactions With US

China's military has reportedly been instructed to deescalate incidents with the U.S. military to prevent potential undesired clashes as tensions rise between the two countries in the Western Pacific.

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/08/chinese-military-told-to-prevent-escalation-in-interactions-with-us/>

13 August 2020: China Showcases New H-6J Bomber During Drills in South China Sea, Reports Says

According to the Nanfangwang news outlet, H-6G and H-6J bombers have recently carried out multiple flights to participate in exercises in the region. The H-6J jet was showcased for the first time. H-6 is a license-built version of the Soviet Union's Tupolev Tu-16 strategic heavy bomber. It is designed to carry thermonuclear weapons.

<https://sputniknews.com/military/202008131080156657-china-showcases-new-h-6j-bomber-during-drills-in-south-china-sea/>

13 August 2020: Chinese military held drills near Taiwan as US health secretary visited Taipei, PLA says

As the US health secretary was making a high-profile visit to Taiwan, troops from the Chinese mainland delivered a "serious warning" to supporters of independence for the self-ruled island with a series of military drills on its doorstep.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3097218/chinese-military-held-drills-near-taiwan-us-health-secretary?utm_medium=email&utm_source=mailchimp&utm_campaign=enlz-scmp_china&utm_content=20200813&tpcc=enlz-scmp_china&MCUID=cf7776827f&MCCampaignID=549d108591&MCAccountID=3775521f5f542047246d9c827&tc=5

10 August 2020: Fighter jets cross a line in Taiwan Strait, says Taipei as it hosts US health official amid rising US-China tension

Beijing deployed fighter jets that briefly crossed the midline of the Taiwan Strait on Monday, Taiwan's defence ministry said, as US Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar was in Taiwan for the highest-level US visit to the island in decades.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3096776/fighter-jets-cross-line-taiwan-strait-says-taipei-it-hosts-us>

10 August 2020: PH Navy confirms Chinese vessels' intrusion into Recto Bank

Chinese vessels have been on surveillance near Recto (Reed) Bank in the West Philippine Sea without Philippine government consent for more than a week now, the Philippine Navy said on Monday (Aug. 10). "It has come to my attention on the presence of two

Chinese surveillance vessels in Recto Bank,” said Vice Admiral Giovanni Carlo Bacordo, at an online forum with Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (Focap).
<https://globalnation.inquirer.net/190190/ph-navy-confirms-chinese-vessels-intrusion-into-recto-bank>

6 August 2020: Scientific expedition completed in South China Sea

Chinese scientists said on Thursday that they have completed a comprehensive scientific expedition near Zhongsha Islands in the South China Sea.
http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-08/06/c_139270681.htm

6 August 2020: China calls to resume Code of Conduct negotiations in South China Sea

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Wednesday that the South China Sea is not ground for international politics, urging Southeast Asian countries to resume talks for a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea.
<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-08-06/China-calls-to-resume-Code-of-Conduct-negotiations-in-South-China-Sea-SIw7yOpA3u/index.html>

5 August 2020: Taiwan sends marines to reinforce South China Sea outpost amid reports of major PLA landing drill

Taiwan’s military has sent a marine company to reinforce the garrison on a small outpost in the South China Sea amid reports that the People’s Liberation Army was planning a simulated attack on the islets.
<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3096004/taiwan-sends-marines-reinforce-south-china-sea-outpost-amid>

5 August 2020: China Builds Surveillance Network In South China Sea

China has been building a series of surveillance platforms spanning parts of the South China Sea (SCS). Many of these are in Chinese waters, but several are floating in international waters.
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/hisutton/2020/08/05/china-builds-surveillance-network-in-international-waters-of-south-china-sea/#707f7fa74f3b>

5 August 2020: Foreign minister to contact US, China on South China Sea issue

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein plans to contact the leaders from the United States and China to state Malaysia’s commitment towards resolving matters related to the South China Sea. He said he would raise the issue when he speaks with China Foreign Minister Wang Yi and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo tomorrow. “Malaysia should not necessarily be dragged into the matter and be caught in the geopolitics of the superpowers and efforts must be made to avoid any unwanted incidents in the waters, including military clashes by any party.”
<https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2020/08/05/foreign-minister-to-contact-us-china-on-south-china-sea-issue/1891349>

4 August 2020: Indonesia, Singapore stay neutral on US-China dispute despite Pompeo’s South China Sea outreach

Following Malaysia's unusually strong rebuke last week of China's "nine-dash line" claim in the South China Sea, the United States has reached out to the Southeast Asian nation's immediate neighbours to reiterate American support for international law in the disputed waters. Analysts said US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's Monday calls to foreign ministers Vivian Balakrishnan of Singapore and Indonesia's Retno Marsudi were in keeping with Washington's bid to denounce Beijing's expansive claims in the disputed waterway, but they pointed out that individual countries' accounts of the call clearly reflected their different priorities.

<https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3096033/indonesia-singapore-stay-neutral-us-china-dispute-despite>

3 August 2020: China seeks to increase influence in South China Sea by reclassifying international shipping lanes

China has quietly changed how it identifies a vast stretch of international waters in a shipping regulation, indicating it as a "coastal" region, rather than "offshore," as authorities seek to exert even greater control over the South China Sea. The amended regulation, first drafted in the 1970s, went into effect on Saturday, and establishes a "navigation area" from China's Hainan island in the south, all the way down to the disputed Paracel Islands, which sit east of Vietnam's coastline.

<https://news.yahoo.com/china-seeks-increase-influence-south-103108084.html>

3 August 2020: Citing Duterte order, Lorenzana says PH won't join other navies in South China Sea drills

Citing an order by President Rodrigo Duterte, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Monday (Aug. 3) said that the Philippines would not join the navies of other countries, like the United States, in maritime drills in the South China Sea for fear of raising tension in the area.

<https://globalnation.inquirer.net/189992/citing-duterte-order-lorenzana-says-ph-wont-join-other-navies-in-south-china-sea-drills#ixzz6U9MsMKxL>

1 August 2020: Chinese bombers conducted an 'attack exercise' in the South China Sea

Chinese bombers took part in a high-intensity exercise over the South China Sea, Beijing said on Thursday, just weeks after two US aircraft carrier strike groups conducted drills of their own in the disputed waters.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/chinese-bombers-conducted-attack-exercise-in-the-south-china-sea-2020-7>

1 August 2020: South China Sea: Indonesia asks China to honor UNCLOS

Expressing concern over the escalating tensions in the South China Sea, Indonesia has urged China to abide by international laws, including the United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), in settling disputes. During a virtual bilateral meeting on Thursday with her Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Retno Marsudi said there is a need for China, as a signatory to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, to abide by the the code of conduct while trying to resolve disputes related to the South China Sea with Southeast Asian countries.

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/153350/south-china-sea-indonesia-asks-china-to-honor-unclos>

ASEAN AND SOUTH CHINA SEA

24 August 2020: China meets with ASEAN diplomats to propose resuming South China Sea talks

Three weeks after US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced his country's new position on the South China Sea, Beijing called diplomats from 10 Southeast Asian countries together for a meeting to convey its worries about the rising risk for conflict over the contested waters. During the meeting in Beijing in early August, a Chinese official in charge of maritime and boundary affairs expressed Beijing's concerns for the "high risk" from military activities by "non-regional countries", phrasing China often uses when discussing the US role in Asia.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3098486/china-meets-asean-diplomats-propose-resuming-south-china-sea>

OTHER STATES AND SOUTH CHINA SEA

30 August 2020: Indian Navy quietly deployed its frontline warship in South China Sea after Galwan Valley clash

The Indian Navy deployed its frontline warship in the South China Sea immediately after the Galwan valley clash on June 15 in Eastern Ladakh. The move irked China which raised its displeasure over the decision during the talks between the two sides.

<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/indian-navy-quietly-deployed-its-frontline-warship-in-south-china-sea-after-galwan-valley-clash/645036>

30 August 2020: US, Japan Reiterate South China Sea Commitments Amid Growing Chinese Presence

US Defence Secretary Mark Esper and Japanese Defence Minister Taro Kono reiterated their commitment to maintaining a 'rules-based order' in the East and South China Seas on Saturday, August 29.

<https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/us-news/us-japan-reiterate-south-china-sea-commitments-amid-growing-chinese-p.html>

23 August 2020: South China Sea and North Korea, topics for discussion between Japanese and Cambodian Foreign Ministers

The Foreign Minister of Japan, Mr. Motegi Toshimitsu and Cambodia's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mr. Prak Sokhonn had exchanged views regarding the issues of North Korea and the South China Sea, and confirmed that they will deepen cooperation between the two countries.

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50756024/south-china-sea-and-north-korea-topics-for-discussion-between-japanese-and-cambodian-foreign-ministers/>

11 August 2020: Japan and Vietnam ink first maritime patrol ship deal as South China Sea row heats up

Japan has signed a ¥36.6 billion (\$345 million) loan agreement with Vietnam to provide the Southeast Asian country with six patrol boats to boost its maritime law enforcement capabilities, as Beijing steps up its claims in the South China Sea.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/08/11/national/japan-vietnam-patrol-ships-south-china-sea/#.XzNQAigzaUk>

7 August 2020: China risks paying 'high cost' for South China Sea intimidation, Japan defense chief says

China's attempts to change the status quo in the South China Sea risks provoking a stern response from the international community, Japanese Defense Minister Taro Kono told CNN in an exclusive interview Friday. "Anyone who is trying to change the status quo by force needs to be forced to pay a high cost," Kono said.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/08/07/asia/japan-defense-minister-interview-south-china-sea-intl-hnk/index.html>

5 August 2020: Mark Esper details 'vigorous' Defense Department reorientation to confront China's rise

As an active-duty Pacific Command war planner in the mid-1990s, then-Army Lt. Col. Mark Esper watched the rise of China. Now, as secretary of defense, he has a chance to do something about it. "China's been on this path for some time now," Esper said at an Aspen Security Forum virtual discussion Wednesday. "It's time that we woke up and addressed it, that we competed much more vigorously with China."

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/defense-national-security/mark-esper-details-vigorous-defense-department-reorientation-to-confront-chinas-rise>

31 July 2020: Australian, Chinese Envoys' Bitter Tweet Exchange Over South China Sea

Australian High Commissioner Barry O'Farrell on Friday hit back at Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong for objecting to his comments about Chinese actions in the South China Sea, and asserted that Beijing should refrain from actions that could unilaterally alter the status quo in the region.

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/australian-barry-ofarrell-chinese-envoy-sun-weidongs-bitter-tweet-exchange-over-south-china-sea-2272135>