

Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

12 October 2016

Wednesday

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

NEWS HEADLINES

12 OCTOBER 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
WHICH Asian states have cybersecurity issues? BOMBIER
WHAT happened in the online banner of Agot Isidro's NINJA
WHO are the unsung heroes in today's civil war? BOMBIER

PANATAG STILL OFF-LIMITS

- Chinese coast guards drive Philippine fisherman away from Panatag on Oct. 5
- Fishermen say Chinese vessels appear to be drilling at the shoal
- President Duterte says Panatag 'Tabpond' outside of PH territorial waters

NO WINDOW HOURS TODAY AT EDSA, CS, ROXAS BLVD.

The Metro Manila Expressway (MEX) will be closed for a day today to allow for the installation of a new interchange at the intersection of EDSA, Commonwealth Avenue (CS), and Roxas Boulevard. The closure is expected to last from 6 AM to 6 PM.



WAR GAMES DAY EARLY

The annual War Games Day event, which is a competition for children to design and build a model of a war machine, will be held early this year. The event is organized by the Department of Education and is open to all children in the Philippines.

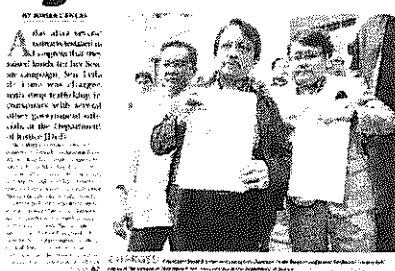
INQUIRER.NET
ONLINE
FUNNY MAN
Taking on Martin the Apostle

SM SUPERMALLS
WINS INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SHOPPING CENTERS AWARDS

San Bida
sweeps Arellano, claims crown

The Manila Times
Too many credible witnesses claim Bilibid drug lords gave her tons of money
DU30 has failed, says FVR

Drug raps filed against de Lima



83% of Pinoys trust Duterte - SWS survey

A survey by Social Weather Stations (SWS) shows that 83% of Filipinos trust President Duterte. The survey also found that 70% of Filipinos believe that Duterte is doing the right thing in dealing with the drug problem in the Philippines.

China, Russia blast US missile defense

China and Russia have both criticized the United States' plans to deploy a missile defense system in the Pacific. They argue that the system is a threat to their security and that it is a violation of international law.

Clinton draws record crowd as Trump campaign flounders

Hillary Clinton has drawn a record crowd at her campaign event in New York City. This is a sign that her campaign is gaining momentum, while Donald Trump's campaign is struggling.

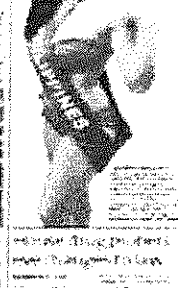
Leila, 7 others sued over drugs

A group of people, including a woman named Leila, have been sued over drug trafficking. The lawsuit was filed by the Department of Justice.



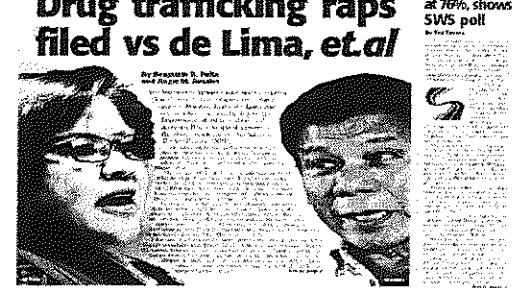
Ombudsman files new raps versus Abalos

The Ombudsman has filed new charges against a man named Abalos. The charges are related to a case of alleged corruption.



Drug trafficking raps filed vs de Lima, et al

Drug trafficking charges have been filed against a man named de Lima and several other people. The charges are related to a case of alleged drug trafficking.



Fraport gets \$270M compensation for T3

The airport authority has received \$270 million in compensation for the T3 terminal. This is a significant amount of money for the airport.



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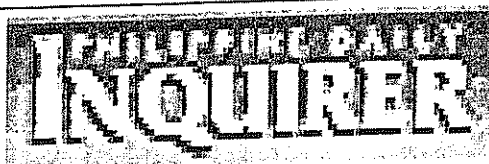
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BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | OCTOBER 12, 2016 | WEDNESDAY

LOW PRESSURE AREA
ESTIMATED AT 900 KM EAST OF SURIGAO CITY,
SURIGAO DEL NORTE
(As of 3:00 PM - October 11, 2016)

CITIES AND TEMPERATURES:

- LAOAG CITY: 25 - 32 °C
- TUGUEGARAO CITY: 24 - 34 °C
- BAGUIO CITY: 16 - 24 °C
- SBMA/CLARK: 24 - 32 °C
- TAGAYTAY CITY: 23 - 30 °C
- METRO MANILA: 24 - 32 °C
- LEGAZPI CITY: 25 - 33 °C
- ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY: 24 - 31 °C
- TACLOBAN CITY: 24 - 29 °C
- PUERTO PRINCESA: 24 - 32 °C
- METRO CEBU: 24 - 31 °C
- CAGAYAN DE ORO: 24 - 31 °C
- ZAMBOANGA CITY: 24 - 30 °C
- METRO DAVAO: 24 - 32 °C

SUNRISE
5:47 AM

SUNSET
5:38 PM

MOONRISE
2:37 PM

MOONSET
1:43 AM

FIRST QUARTER
OCT 9
12:33 AM

FULL MOON
OCT 16
12:23 PM

LOW TIDE
2:06 PM
0.13 Meter

HIGH TIDE
5:40 AM
0.83 Meter

MANILA SOUTH HARBOR

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thundersstorms

Cloudy with rainshowers and/or thundersstorms

Monsoon rain/rain

	OCT 13	OCT 14	OCT 13	OCT 14	OCT 13	OCT 14		
METRO MANILA	24 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C	TAGAYTAY	21 - 30 °C	22 - 29 °C	TACLOBAN	24 - 29 °C	23 - 29 °C
TUGUEGARAO	24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C	LEGAZPI	24 - 32 °C	24 - 30 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C
LAOAG	24 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C	METRO DAVAO	24 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	15 - 25 °C	16 - 24 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	24 - 31 °C	24 - 30 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 - 30 °C	25 - 33 °C
SBMA/CLARK	23 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	METRO CEBU	24 - 31 °C	24 - 29 °C			

Watch PANAHON.TV everyday at 6:30 AM on PTV (Channel 4).

12 October 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Page: AB

Panatag still off-limits to PH

By **Gabriel Cardinoza**
@gcardinozaINQ

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—Chinese Coast Guard vessels drove Filipino fishermen from the disputed Scarborough Shoal last week in defiance of a UN-backed court's ruling and just days before President Duterte's fence-mending visit to China.

"What happened to the election promise of President Duterte? I thought he was willing to jet ski to Scarborough Shoal to reclaim it from the Chinese invaders?" said Jowe Legaspi, an official of the fishing village of Cato in Infanta town who reported the incident on Monday.

Oct. 3 incident

He said the fishermen from Infanta were approaching Scarborough Shoal, known to Filipinos as Panatag Shoal, on Oct. 3 when Chinese coast guards in a rubber boat blocked their path and shooed them away from the shoal.

The fishermen had no choice, he said, and left to avoid getting hurt, like what happened to other fishermen who tried to fish at the shoal.

He said that in several incidents in the past Chinese coast guards fired water cannons at Filipino fishermen or rammed the fishermen's outriggers with their patrol vessels to drive

them away from the shoal.

"Why is it getting more difficult for us to go there? We have already won in the United Nations arbitration court," Legaspi said.

He was referring to the July 12 decision of the UN-backed Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague that said China had no historic title to the South China Sea and that it had violated the Philippines' right to fish and explore for resources in waters within its 370-kilometer exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

Scarborough Shoal is well

within the Philippine EEZ but outside its 22-km territorial waters.

The court said Filipino fishermen, like the Chinese, had traditional fishing rights at Scarborough, but did not resolve which country had sovereignty over the shoal.

But China, which claims 90 percent of the South China Sea, rejected the ruling, saying it would not change anything in the strategic waterway.

"We are talking about sovereignty here," Legaspi said on Tuesday. He said the fishermen told him that they had seen

several Chinese vessels anchored in the shoal's lagoon, something they described as unusual. The fishermen, according to Legaspi, appeared to be drilling in the area.

"They saw stainless steel bars there and these materials could only be used for drilling," he said.

This new development made Mr. Duterte's latest statement about Scarborough Shoal "a disappointment," he said.

Speaking to residents of Lamitan, Basilan province, on Monday, Mr. Duterte said the Philippines could not win in a

fight with China over Scarborough Shoal.

Instead of using the Hague tribunal's ruling as a leverage in talks with the Chinese, he said he would ask them to allow Filipino fishermen to go back to Scarborough Shoal.

Mr. Duterte, accompanied by a large business delegation, will visit China from Oct. 18 to 22.

"I have a good feeling that we will be OK with [China]. But first, let's not touch the Scarborough issue because we cannot win that," Mr. Duterte said.

'Fishpond'

The President reiterated his position in a speech in Malacañang on Tuesday, saying he would not lead the Philippines in a no-win situation with China by asserting its right over Scarborough Shoal, which he described as a "fishpond."

He said that while the Hague tribunal upheld the Philippines in the case it brought against China, "these are entitlements of that part of the Red China Sea that is ours. But it is not [part of our] territory."

"Beyond that [territory] is what is ours, like a fishpond. All of us are given a fishpond. You count it from the outermost line then you draw a line there and that's yours. All of us are like that, but China has claimed it to be part of its historic sovereign territory," Mr. Duterte said.

He said the Philippines had only two options: Start a war with China over Scarborough Shoal or settle the dispute

through bilateral talks.

He said he preferred talks and he expected to get soft loans and trade concessions from China during his visit.

Drug rehab funds

He added that he also expected to get donations for his rehabilitation program for drug dependents.

China has donated a 1,600-room drug rehabilitation center to the Philippines, which will be developed inside Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija.

Legaspi said President Duterte should assert the Hague court's ruling and Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio said Mr. Duterte should send patrol vessels to the South China Sea to protect Philippine territory.

Speaking at the closing ceremonies of this year's marine landing exercises between Philippine and US troops at Philippine Marine Corps headquarters in Taguig City on Tuesday, Carpio said the patrols were mandated by the Constitution.

He said there was only one power on earth that could stop the Chinese from intruding into the Philippine EEZ—the United States.

But angered by US criticisms of his brutal war on drugs, Mr. Duterte has said he might break relations with the United States and seek closer relations with China and Russia.

—WITH REPORTS FROM ALLAN MACATUNO, GIL CABA, GUNGAN AND CYNTHIA D. BALANA INQ

12 October 2016



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Palace invites UN to probe killings

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

Malacañang has officially invited a United Nations special rapporteur to come to the Philippines to investigate rising cases of extrajudicial killings allegedly unleashed by President Duterte's intensified campaign against illegal drugs and criminality.

Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea said the Palace has sent the invitation to UN special rapporteur Agnes Calamand, and is awaiting her response.

In its invitation, the Palace also urged the UN rapporteur to include in her investigation the killings of law enforcers by drug suspects so she could obtain "an accurate perspective" of the drug problem in the country.

"We have sent the letter. It's up to them how they will respond," Medialdea said in an interview.

He stressed the invitation was only for the UN rapporteur.

Duterte earlier dared US President Barack Obama as well as representatives from the European Union (EU) to visit the country and do their own investigation, instead of publicly criticizing the conduct of his vicious war on drugs.

Medialdea said the Duterte administration was wrongly

Turn to Page 11

Palace From Page 1

pictured as being responsible for the spate of what were widely believed to be drug-related killings. Over 3,000 suspected drug offenders have been killed or have turned up dead since Duterte announced during the campaign his intention to kill drug lords and pushers if he got elected.

The Palace, in its invitation, called on Callamard to "take a fresh look at the Philippine situation in the light of the drug problem that bedevils our country and has been proven to be more widespread than initially thought."

"We are confident that whatever reports, papers or data you may have been furnished with for your perusal and consideration by your immediate predecessor have not swayed you into prejudging the situation in the Philippines," Medialdea said.

Callamard was one of the two UN rapporteurs who urged the Duterte administration to end the wave of extrajudicial executions and killings, stressing suspected drug offenders should be "judged in a court of law, not by gunmen on the streets."

"Claims to fight illicit drug trade do not absolve the government from its interna-

tional legal obligations and do not shield state actors or others from responsibility for illegal killings," Callamard stressed in a statement last August released by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Probe cop deaths, too

The Palace also called on the UN to look into the killings of policemen during anti-drug operations or by drug syndicates and other criminal gangs.

"We, likewise, expect you to look into the circumstances surrounding the killing of our policemen during legitimate operations. That way, your picture of the enormity and gravity of our problem, and the audacity of drug personalities, can be placed in an accurate perspective," Medialdea pointed out.

In his speeches, President Duterte has been complaining that two policemen are killed everyday in anti-drug operations as drug suspects have become bolder in fighting lawmakers sent out to arrest them.

The Palace also noted that the Philippines has been in the international limelight since the assumption of President Duterte last July 1 "due to the number of drug-related killings, which his critics and detractors term as 'extrajudicial'."

"Maybe, it's appropriate for us to recall the President's pronouncement in his inaugural speech that the sale, use and proliferation of illegal rugs shall be stopped by 'all means that the law allows,'" he added.

"It is in this context that we invite you to visit our country and see for yourself whether or not the criticisms are legally and factually sound," Medialdea said.

In the spirit of due process, Medialdea echoed the President's call that he be given the chance to toss questions to the UN representative.

"Since it is this administration that is maligned as being behind these extrajudicial killings, due process requires that the President of the Philippine Republic be given the opportunity to propound his own questions which have been nagging him for some time. The right to be heard is a great principle which every nation recognizes," the Palace letter read.

"I suppose that that would further fortify his right to due process which requires that the party against whom a charge is leveled is accorded the opportunity to propound his own questions to whom-ever he deems appropriate, including your good self," Medialdea added.

"After all, the party charged is entitled to know the motive for the investigation,

and why the focus is on the Philippines when there are other nations responsible for the death of innocent and defenseless individuals elsewhere in the world. Those are extrajudicial killings too, are they not?" Medialdea said.

The President has thrown expletives at critics of his anti-drug war, including the UN. Duterte said the US and European countries were in no position to speak against his brutal way of dealing with the drug problem as they had been more ruthless at some point in dealing with their own people or with their colonial subjects.

The executive secretary also reiterated Duterte's earlier assurance that whatever information they would share with investigators would be the truth and nothing but the truth.

At the start of the letter, the Palace congratulated Callamard for her recent appointment as UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial killings.

"We understand that you are mandated, among others, to examine the circumstances surrounding the extrajudicial killings/arbitrary executions and thereafter, to submit your findings, conclusions and recommendations to the UN Human Rights Council, and the General Assembly," the letter read. "We hope to see you soon."

12 October 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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New army division chief in Samar

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The former Army Internal Auditor is the new commander of the Army's 8th Infantry Division (8ID) in Samar.

Brig. Gen. Raul M. Farnacio, a member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Sandiwa" Class of 1985, is the new commander, replacing Maj. Gen. Jet B. Velarmino, who retired from the military service.

Army spokesman Col. Benjamin L. Hao said Farnacio took over the position during a Change of Command Ceremony at the 8th ID headquarters in Camp Gen Vicente Lucban, Catbalogan, Samar.

Farnacio has held several key positions in the Army. He commanded the 901st Brigade, 9th Infantry Division based in the Bicol Region; served under the 8th ID as executive officer of the 43rd Infantry Battalion and the 801st Brigade, and later as Commanding Officer of the 20th Infantry Battalion and 43rd Infantry Battalion.

He was also the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, G2, 7th Infantry Division; and Chief of the Unified Command Staff, Central Command, AFP.

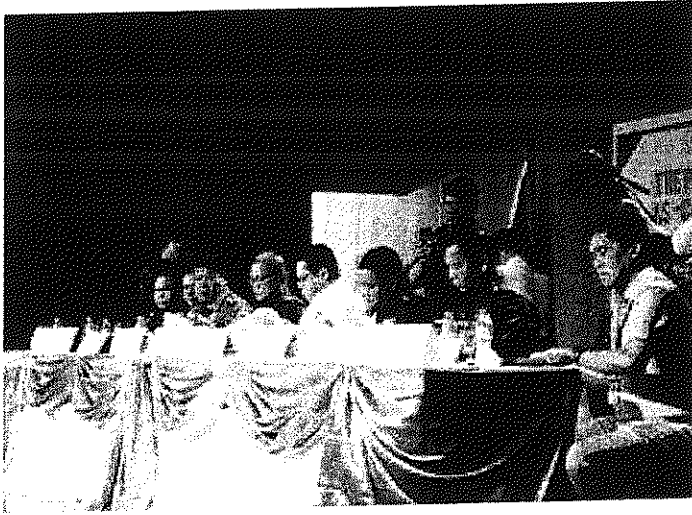
Lt. Gen. Eduardo M Año, the Commanding General of the Philippine Army, was the guest of honor during the Change of Command Ceremony.

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www.dwdd.com.ph

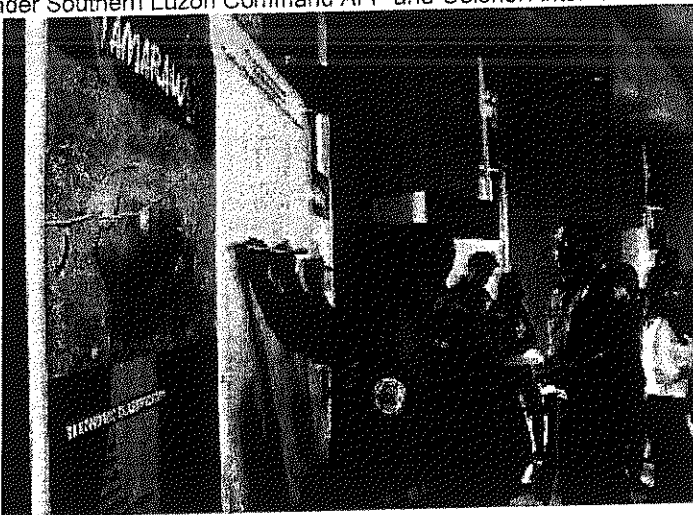
SOLCOM declares 13 Provinces of Southern Luzon Conflict Manageable

Reported by Luf Claudio - Country - 111 - 1010-1010



Camp Guillermo Nakar, Lucena City- The Southern Luzon Command (SolCom) AFP thru the 2nd Infantry (Jungle Fighter) Division, Philippine Army, the Philippine National Police, Provincial Government of Occidental Mindoro and other stakeholders formally declared today, October 11, the Province of Occidental Mindoro as a "Conflict Manageable and Ready for Further Development" (CMRFD) province in a ceremony held at Provincial Capitol, Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro.

The memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed by Occidental Mindoro Governor Mario Gene J Mendiola and Major General Romeo G. Gan, Commander of the 2nd Infantry Division and Police Senior Superintendent Reynaldo B Jagmis, Provincial Director, Occidental Mindoro representing Acting Regional Director PRO-4B in the presence of Lieutenant General Ferdinand F. Quidilla, Commander Southern Luzon Command AFP and Colonel Antonio G Parlade, Commander of 203rd Infantry



Brigade.

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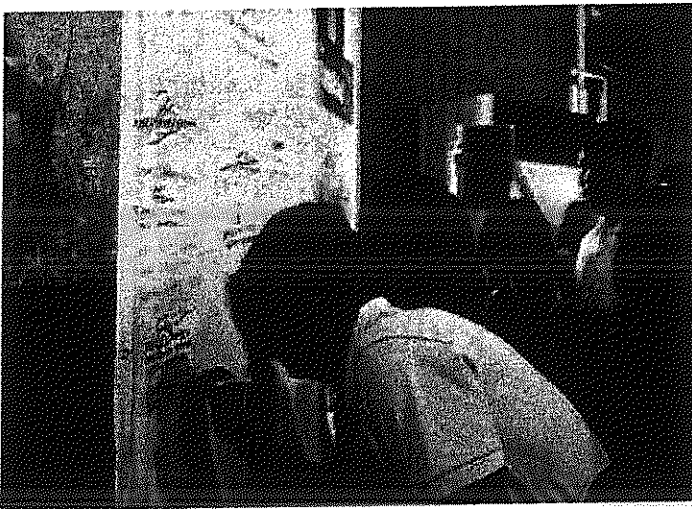
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It was in April 1977 when insurgency from the mainland of southern Luzon expands in the Island of Mindoro. The purpose is to establish an area of influence where they can support the organizing stage of the NPA in the Island through propaganda against the government and recruit members to join the rebel group.

Since May 1981 to 2000, Mindoreño suffered security threats due to the presence of the NPA rebels. Mass demonstration in the Towns and City, extortion activities, recruitment particularly members of the minority, skirmishes, and ambushes to the responding government forces, arson, and coercion to those who refuse to support the movement.

Chief of Staff Armed Forces of the Philippines General Ricardo R Visaya said that the declaration of the province as CMRFD is a significant contribution to the local government, stakeholders and the people of Mindoro. The duty of the AFP will not end here. We will continue our commitment in a clearing not only your province of threats and prepare them as ready for development but be doing it on all other provinces until the entire country is set as a peaceful, progressive and prosperous nation.

"I congratulate the people of Mindoro for putting their best foot forward in making province peaceful and now ready for further development. Your Armed Forces of the Philippines together with the police and the Local Government of Occidental Mindoro will remain active in its quest for bringing peace and security to the people." SOLCOM Commander, Lieutenant General Ferdinand F Quidilla said before reading the message of General Visaya.



The Provincial Director, Occidental Mindoro Police Senior Superintendent Reynaldo B Jagmis, said the declaration of the province remains a big challenge but we are confident because we have a strong AFP partners.

Governor Mario Gene J Mendiola said after 30 years of fear and unrest of insurgency threats the province will be declared as conflict manageable and ready for further development. The Provincial Government of Occidental Mindoro will take pride and accept the challenge of taking the lead role in the implementation of socio-economic programs supported by the AFP and the PNP. I thank you all particularly the AFP and PNP for supporting the provincial government in its quest for a peaceful and progressive province.

Occidental Mindoro is the 13th CMRFD province declared under SOLCOM's area of responsibility.

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Army has new Army Internal Auditor

Reported by: Lui Claudio | on October 13, 2016 at 10:21 AM



FORT BONIFACIO, Metro Manila – The head of the Governance Strategy Management Office of the Army's 4th Infantry Division (4ID), who was tasked to facilitate the implementation of the Army Transformation Roadmap (ATR), assumed his post as the new Army Internal Auditor during the Change of Office Ceremony at Headquarters Philippine Army here on Monday, October 10.

Col Jose Ely D Alberto replaced Brig. Gen. Raul M Farnacio, who is now the new commander of the Army's 8th Infantry Division.

As the Chief, GSMO, he pushed for the realization of the ATR at 4ID. He facilitated the crafting of personal scorecard of every 4ID personnel and ensured that the unit scorecard was aligned with the implementation of the ATR.

Alberto also served at the Department of National Defense from 2012 to 2015.

His most recent field duties include the following: Commanding Officer of the 62nd Infantry Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division; Commanding Officer of Task Force North Cotabato, 6th Infantry Division; and Executive Officer of the 602nd Brigade, 6th Infantry Division.

He started his military career in Mindanao, first as Platoon Leader of Charlie Company, 51st Infantry Battalion in 1986 to Company Commander of the Alpha Company, 10th Infantry Battalion in 1992.

Alberto is a member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 1986.

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JOINT OPERATION | 53 lawless members nabbed, firearms seized in North Cotabato

Posted by: Lui Claudio on October 11, 2016 at 2:16 PM

Camp Navarro, Calarian, Zamboanga City – Fifty-three members of a lawless group under a notorious drug pusher operating in North Cotabato, along with their firearms, were seized by operating elements of the military, law enforcers, and the assistance of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in a joint law enforcement operation launched in the said province last week.

The operation against the group of notorious drug pusher Madrox Masgal resulted in the recovery of several high-powered firearms belonging to the lawless group, including a homemade barret, an M16 rifle, two (2) homemade M79 grenade launchers, and live RPG ammunition.

The arrested persons and firearms were temporarily detained in Camp Darapanan for rehabilitation before being turned over to the families and the police for filing of appropriate charges.

Said operation was conducted by operatives of the 602nd Brigade, Philippine National Police (PNP), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), and MILF in the marshy areas of Barangays Nabalawag, Kadingilan, Olamdang, Kadigasan and Tugal, all in Midsayap, North Cotabato.

Masgal is responsible for the deaths of personnel of the 45th Infantry Battalion and 7th Field Artillery Battalion, and the landmine hitting the 62nd Division Reconnaissance Company.

Said operation was made possible through the joint cooperation of the government troops and the MILF in adherence to the all-out campaign of the government against the proliferation of illegal drugs in the country.

The military continues to assist the police in intensifying the conduct of law enforcement operations to expedite the arrest of lawless elements in the joint area of operations

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www.dwdd.com.ph

MRE | Soldiers to get Ready to Eat Meals during Operations

Reported by Alvin Santiago | Published on October 12, 2017



FORT ANDRES BONIFACIO, Taguig City (DWDD) – Soldiers on special operations will soon be receiving Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) as part of their ration instead of bring utensils and foods items that might compromise their security.

In an interview by DWDD with Col Benjamin Hao, Philippine Army Public Affairs Officer, the Philippine Army has allotted P12-M for the procurement of MREs, through public bidding, for a total of 60,150 packs. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids is on Nov. 4.

Having MREs has several advantages including the improvement of the soldier/units mobility.

Currently, soldiers literally brings with them supplies like rice, dried fish and canned goods during operations, and some were reported to bring with them live animals for cooking.

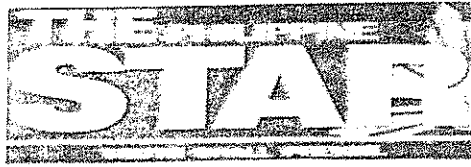
The decision was the result of a study undertaken by the AFP leadership, where it passed through various experimentation and testing so it will pass the soldiers palate.

Hao added that the planned procurement was first announced in 2013 since the Philippine Army is well on its way to being a World-Class Army. **AES / OACPA**

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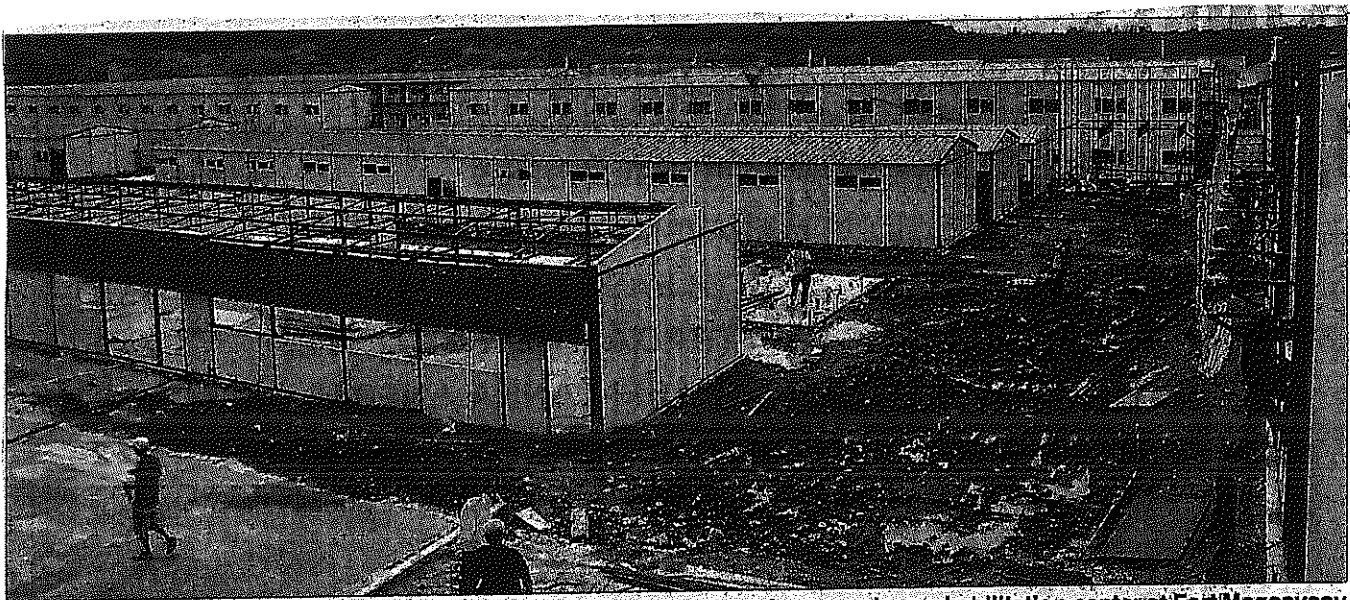


Photo provided by the Philippine Army shows ongoing construction of a mega drug rehabilitation center at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija. The Department of Health is putting up nine treatment centers to accommodate the growing number of drug surrenderees.

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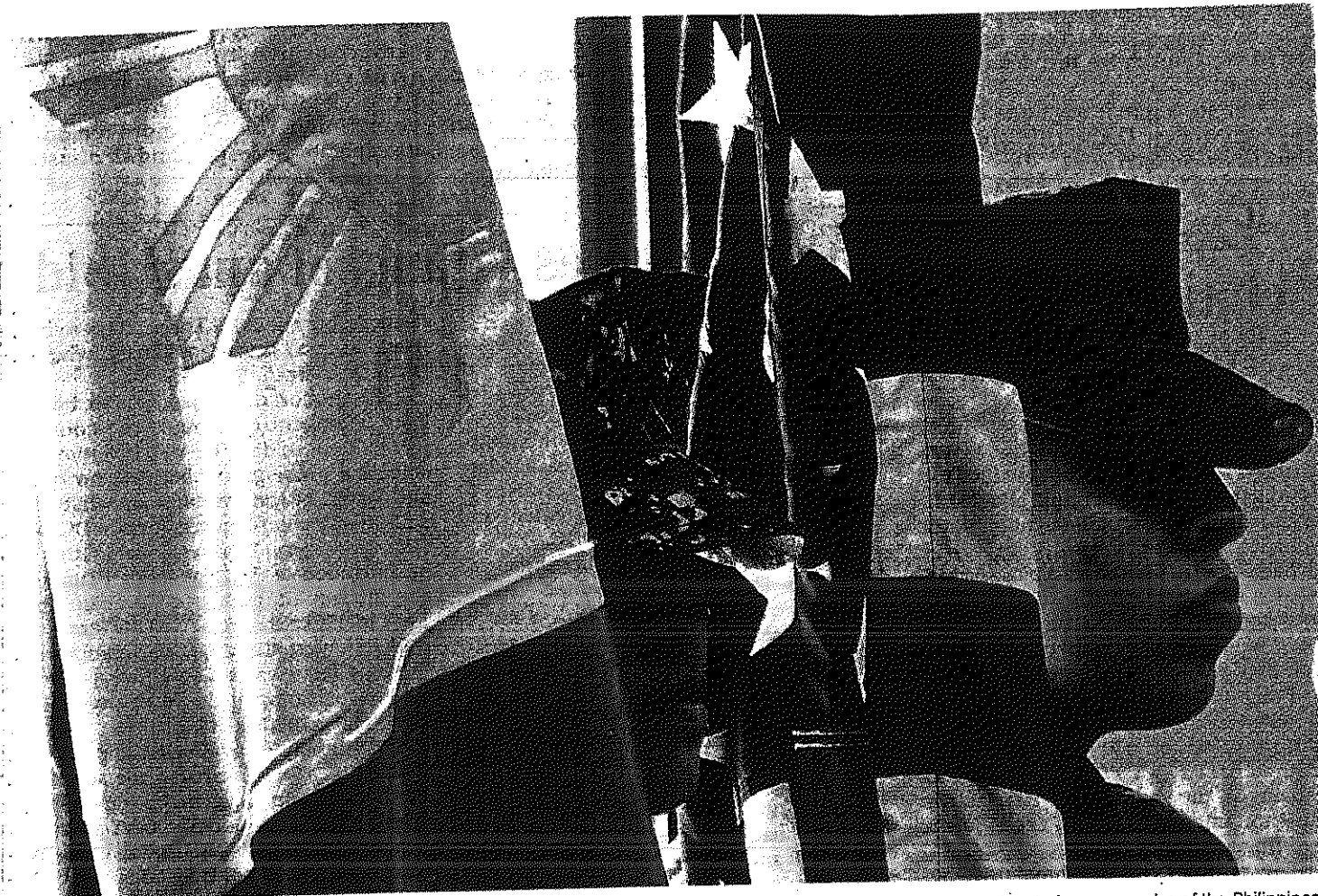
NPA-AFP INTERACTION

– Ground commanders of both the New People's Army (NPA) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) get acquainted in the mountains of Surigao del Norte as an offshoot the ongoing peace talks between the government and communist rebels. In photo (from left) are: Ka Oto, spokesperson of the Guerrilla Front (GF) 16 of the NPA, Lt. Col. Rico Amaro, commanding officer of the 30th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army, Ka Lucas, a high-ranking NPA leader, and Ka Edroy, political officer of GF 16. (Photo courtesy of the 30th IB)

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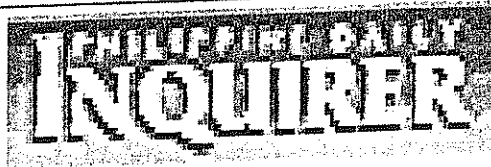
Malaya
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Phiblex ends. Members of the Philippine-US Marine Corps stand at attention with the Philippine and American flags during the closing ceremonies of the Philippines-US amphibious landing exercise (Phiblex) at the Philippine Marines headquarters in Taguig City.
REUTERS PHOTO

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ALL ABOARD American Marines from the USS Germantown load military vehicles and other equipment back into their ship at noontime on Tuesday as they prepare to leave Subic port. The US warships that participated in the joint bilateral military exercises dubbed Philippine Amphibious Landing Exercise (Phiblex 33) have all left as the war games ended earlier than scheduled. —ALLAN MACATUNO

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U.S. SHIPS PACK UP, LEAVE AHEAD OF SCHEDULED END OF WAR GAMES

By Allan Macatuno

@allanmacatuno

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Four US warships left this free port and closing ceremonies were held in Taguig City on Tuesday, a day before the scheduled conclusion of this year's joint military drills between Filipino and American troops.

The joint marine landing maneuvers called Philippine Amphibious Landing Exercise (Phiblex 33) ended on Monday, although the drills were scheduled to run until Wednesday.

Capt. Ryan Lacuesta, director of the Philippine Marine Corps Public Affairs Office, said the major drills were completed on Monday.

The last round of the war games, including a combined live fire exercise, was held at Crow Valley in Tarlac province.

The exercises involved 500 Filipino soldiers and 1,400 American troops.

Going home

US Marines from the USS Bonhomme Richard and the USS Germantown were seen loading military vehicles and other equipment back to their ships on Tuesday noon. The ships were scheduled to leave later that day.

The USNS Fall River and the USS Green Bay left the port on Tuesday morning, according to the seaport department of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Closing ceremonies were held at the Philippine Marine

Corps headquarters in Taguig City also on Tuesday, a day ahead of schedule reportedly to accommodate the guest of honor, Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio.

Brig. Gen. John M. Jansen, commander of the US 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, said he was impressed by the profes-

sionalism and capabilities of all the forces involved in the drills.

He said the US Marines learned jungle warfare and combat engineering from the Philippine Marines, while the Philippine Marines learned amphibious operations from their US counterparts.

It was not clear whether the

early end of Phiblex 33 was a response to President Duterte's recent assertion that the joint exercises were the last of his six-year presidency.

Mr. Duterte, who identifies himself as a socialist, has also said he wants US forces out of Mindanao so he can talk peace with Moro separatists on the is-

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land who have not forgotten US atrocities there during the Moro wars of the early 20th century.

US officials say, however, that despite Mr. Duterte's public remarks, his administration has made no formal requests to halt any programs. Nor has it followed up on Mr. Duterte's threat to eject US forces from Mindanao, where a rotating force of 50 to 100 troops helps the Philippine Army combat Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Military aid

But in the latest of his near-daily tirades against the United States, Mr. Duterte said on Tuesday that he would eventually break up with Washington, which he told to bring its military aid elsewhere.

The United States is giving the Philippines over \$90 million in military aid this year and has provided more than \$1 billion in nonmilitary support over the last five years, US officials said.

On Friday, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said "we can live without" US military aid.

On Tuesday, Lorenzana insisted during a Senate budget hearing that the Philippines would survive without US military aid.

He said the Philippines could look to other allies for support, including Australia, Japan and South Korea.

Lorenzana said, however, that Mr. Duterte was not abrogating the Mutual Defense Treaty with the United States.

War on drugs

Some of the tension between Mr. Duterte's administration and Washington has come from international outrage over the Philippine leader's brutal war on illegal drugs, which has led to the killing of more than 3,600 people.

It was his concern that Western powers would lecture him on human rights that prompted Mr. Duterte's denunciation of US President Barack Obama, as well as similar tirades against the United Nations and the European Union.

"I really lost my faith in the Americans," he said in a speech to local officials last week. "You can go to hell, state department. You can go to hell, Obama. You can go to hell, EU. You can choose purgatory because hell is full. Why will I be afraid of you?"

US military officials said they were well aware of Mr. Duterte's comments, but their counterparts in the Philippines had reassured them that business continued as usual.

Speaking in Malacañang on Tuesday, Mr. Duterte said he would not cancel the Philippines' defense treaty with the United States, toning down his rhetoric after his senior adviser, former President Fidel Ramos, chastised him for making "discombobulating" statements against the country's longtime ally. —WITH REPORTS FROM TARRA

QUISMUNDO, CYNTHIA D. BALANA AND GIL CABACUNGAN IN MANILA, NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE AND REUTERS INQ

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Duterte backtracks: No intention to cut military ties with allies

BY ALEXIS ROMERO AND PAOLO ROMERO

A week after he declared that he would eventually break up with the United States, President Duterte changed his tune again yesterday as he declared that he would not cut military ties with allies even as he asked whether such partnerships were still needed in the time of powerful weapons and equipment.

His defense secretary, Delfin Lorenzana, also said it was still status quo as far as security ties between the Philippines and the US were concerned.

"We're not giving up our relationship with the US,"

Lorenzana told reporters at the Senate where he attended the hearing on the Department of National Defense's proposed budget for 2017.

Speaking after an oath taking of new appointees in Malacañang, Duterte said he did not mean to "cancel or abrogate the military alliances" but asked: "Do you really think we need it? If there is a war? If we engage in skirmishes, do you think we really need America?"

Duterte vowed anew to strengthen the country's rela-

tions with China and Russia, leaving the US way below the priorities of his administration.

"Do we need China and Russia for that matter, or do we need somebody? If they fight, if they launch ICBMS (inter-continental ballistic missiles) or Poseidon (aircraft), there will be no more America aid to talk of. There will no more be a country strong enough to rule," he added.

"When that time comes, we won't need anything but a priest. If you want, you can recite the *mi ultimo adios* (my

last farewell)."

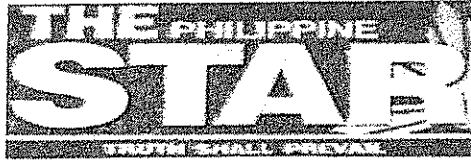
Duterte said the US should also watch its "arrogance" as Russian President Vladimir Putin would always get whatever he wanted.

"Let's not make any mistake. If he wants something, he will really get it. He wanted Crimea and he simply went there to occupy it. America was not able to do anything," the President said.

The Ukrainian territory of Crimea was annexed by the Russian Federation on March 18, 2014.

— With Christina Mendez

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Phil, US cut short joint military exercises

Philippine and US marines decided to cut short their joint military exercises yesterday, ending the war games one day ahead of schedule.

Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio was the keynote speaker at the closing rites of the joint military drill dubbed Philippine Amphibious Landing Exercise 33 (PHIBLEX) at the Philippine Marine headquarters at Fort

Bonifacio in Taguig.

Carpio asserted the country's maritime sovereign rights over the West Philippine Sea.

He told the PHIBLEX participants that the West Philippine Sea covers the country's territorial sea and exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

While President Duterte has declared that PHIBLEX would be the last Philippine military engagement with the US under

of Luzon. We have to protect that. It's vital to our interests. There is a provision in the Constitution that the state should protect its EEZ. The Constitution says the Armed Forces is responsible for protecting the national territory. Who is the head of the Armed Forces? The President," Carpio said.

Brig. Gen. John Janssen, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade commander and this year's US

his term as he intends to open relations with Beijing and Russia, Carpio maintained that the Philippines needs naval powers to assert freedom of navigation in the disputed region.

In contrast to the President's stand on the issue, Carpio said the Philippines, as mandated by the Constitution, must continue protecting its territory by sending patrol

PHIBLEX director, described the joint exercises as a success.

Michael Klecheski, deputy chief of mission of the US embassy, Philippine Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Andre Costales and PHIBLEX director Brig. Gen. Maximo Ballesteros also attended the closing rites.

Around 2,000 Filipino and US Marines took part in this year's joint military exercises.

ships to prevent foreign fishing vessels from poaching and fishing in the country's maritime waters.

Carpio explained that while Malampaya is outside the Philippines' territorial sea, the area is within the country's since it is located 43 nautical miles from Palawan.

"Malampaya supplies 40 percent of energy requirement

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AFP troops in Caraga start anti-illegal drugs training

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City – To beef up President Rodrigo R. Duterte's war on illegal drugs, the officers and men of the largest Army combat maneuvering division in Mindanao started a three-day training on anti-illegal drug law enforcement that started Monday and will end today.

Capt. Joe Patrick A. Martinez, spokesperson of the Army's northeastern and northern Mindanao 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division (4thID) said initially there are 70 officers and men from the regional headquarters and three Army maneuvering Brigades in Caraga region and Northern Mindanao (Region 10) who participated in the training in the fight against illegal drugs in accordance with police work.

He stressed that the training was in response to the current thrust of President Duterte in the fight against the illegal drug menace.

Capt. Martinez added that the training would further enhance the capacity of each soldier to support the law enforcement operations being conducted by the Police Regional Office 13 (PRO 13) and PRO 10.

"The training would certainly enhance the collaboration of the PNP and military in the implementation of the 'Kabalikat Laban sa Druga' (Partners in the Fight Against Illegal Drugs), a joint implementing plan in line with the PNP's Project Double-Barrel," Martinez said.

Experts from the PNP and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) were tapped as resource persons in providing insights on matters pertaining to the whole process of the law enforcement operations.

During the training at Camp Edilberto Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro City, the PNP and the PDEA will discuss the particular role of the AFP in the anti-illegal drug campaign.

Meanwhile, Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Madrigal Jr., commanding general of the 4th ID said the "training was aimed at capacitating field troops on the rigors of law enforcement.

"We need to give our all-out support in order to attain the pronouncements of President Rodrigo Duterte to eradicate illegal drugs, criminality and corruption in the country," Gen. Madrigal said in the same statement.

The desire of our President to create

a drug-free country should be embraced not only by the PNP and AFP but by the entire Filipino nation, he added.

In Region 10, out of 2,022 barangays, 410 (20%) are drug affected while in Caraga region, out of 1,310 ba-

rangays, 148 (11%) are drug affected. Shabu is the most commonly abused illegal drug followed by marijuana with most marijuana plantations located in far flung and remote areas in Caraga region.

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PH-Australia joint naval exercises begin

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Philippine Navy (PN) and the Royal Australian Navy formally opened the other day the "Exercise Lumbas 2016" at the Naval Forces Central (NFC) Naval Base Rafael Ramos, in Barangay Lo-oc, Lapu-Lapu City.

In a statement, Lt. Bennet Christian P. Nuevarez, Exercise Lumbas 2016 Public Affairs chief, said Major General Raul L. Del Rosario, commander of the AFP Central Command, was the guest of honor and keynote speaker at the opening ceremony.

Nuevarez said guests and participants were welcomed to the event by the Exercise Director and Deputy Commander of Naval Forces Central, Captain Antonio C. Palces.

Nuevarez said Exercise Lumbas 2016 will be conducted from October 10 to 21, 2016, and will be divided into different phases and series of activities.

At sea, activities will be participated by Philippine Navy ships and RAN ships which will arrive in a few days time.

In his speech, Del Rosario enjoined all the participants to learn as much as they can from the exercise to enhance interoperability and strengthen partnership between the Philippines and Australia.

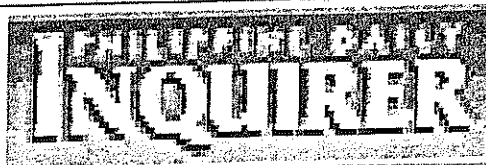
The Royal Australian Navy (RAN)

are headed by Captain Brad White, the Australian Defense Attache to the Philippines.

Nuevarez said Lt. Col. Tim Lopsik, Lt. Commander Mark Lindend Rann and Lt. Commander Graham Rann are the ones

facilitating the conduct of the Command Post Exercise (CPX) which aims to test, validate, enhance and evaluate combined/respective doctrines, techniques, tactics and procedures (TTPs) for threat from the sea, piracy and other scenarios.

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LEFT WILL BE A RELIABLE DUTERTE ALLY, SAYS NDFP'S LUIS JALANDONI

By Karlos Manlupig
@kmanlupigINQ

OSLO—The Left will be a reliable ally of President Duterte in protecting Philippine sovereignty and patrimony, a senior communist leader said on Monday.

Luis Jalandoni, a senior adviser to the National Democratic Front of the Philippines

(NDFP), said Mr. Duterte's criticisms of US intervention could lead to threats that might affect the stability of the Philippines.

"The Left will be a reliable ally to the Duterte administration in fighting against US imperialist threats and other antipeople forces," Jalandoni said.

The Duterte administration and the NDFP concluded a second round of peace talks here on Monday, with high hopes of prisoners of war being released and a bilateral ceasefire being signed this month.

Socialist

Mr. Duterte, who describes himself as a socialist, rants al-

most daily against the United States, United Nations and European Union because of their criticism of his brutal war on illegal drugs.

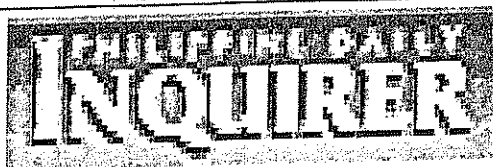
He has said this week's joint military exercises with the United States would be the last of his presidency. He has also threatened to expel US forces from Mindanao and to sever re-

lations with the United States and seek closer ties with China and Russia.

US defense officials have dismissed Mr. Duterte's statements as "all bluster."

The Pentagon chief, Ash Carter, said last week that the US security commitment to the Philippines remained "iron-clad." INQ

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LAUDE KIN JOIN CALLS TO END MILITARY EXERCISES WITH U.S.

By Allan Macatuno
@amacatunoINQ

OLONGAPO CITY—The family of slain transgender woman Jennifer "Jeffrey" Laude sought an end to joint military exercises between the Philippines and the United States, as it marked Laude's second death anniversary on Tuesday.

"Jennifer was a victim of a US Marine who was part of a military exercise. We're praying that no more Filipinos will fall victims to crimes committed by US servicemen," Laude's sister, Marilou, said after a memorial mass at Olongapo Heritage Garden here.

US Marine Lance Cpl. Joseph Scott Pemberton, who was part of the military exercise two years ago, was convicted last year for killing Laude inside an Olongapo motel in October 2014.

On Oct. 7, about 300 Filipino and American Marines carried out a mock assault as part of the Philippines Amphibious Landing Exercise (Phiblex 33) inside the Naval Education and Training Command in San Antonio town in Zambales province. Phiblex 33

was terminated on Tuesday, a day before the scheduled end.

"Let Jennifer be the last case under the Balikatan (shoulder-to-shoulder) exercises," said Virgie Suarez, lawyer of the Laude family.

Calls from various cause-oriented groups to terminate the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) and the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (Edca) highlighted the candlelight vigils here and in Metro Manila on Monday night.

Executive agreements

Suarez said Edca and VFA are executive agreements which President Duterte can terminate anytime.

The 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty and the 1999 VFA have allowed US troops to participate in military exercises in various sites in the country.

"Edca was declared constitutional. But it doesn't mean that it cannot be reviewed, amended or even terminated, especially if it doesn't serve the Philippines' interest," Suarez said.

Pemberton was among the 3,500 US soldiers who participated in the annual joint mili-

tary training with Filipino counterparts in 2014.

He and Laude met in a bar here while the American soldier was on "liberty" with other US Marines.

Laude was found dead in the bathroom of a motel room minutes after she and Pemberton checked in.

On Dec. 1, 2014, an Olongapo City Regional Trial Court found Pemberton guilty of homicide for killing Laude and he was sentenced to minimum of six years to maximum of 12 years imprisonment.

Laude's relatives said they also wanted the government to end what they described as special treatment of Pemberton.

"We are asking President Duterte to finally transfer Pemberton to New Bilibid Prison (NBP) ... To give justice to Laude and to our judicial system, convicted Pemberton should now be detained without special privileges and treatment at NBP," Suarez said.

Pemberton is being held in a special military facility in Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City. INQ

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HYPOCRITES OPPOSING MARCOS' LIBINGAN BURIAL

After graduating from college, I worked as administrative clerk at the President's Center for Special Studies (PCSS) headed by the late Adrian Cristobal who was also the chair of the Social Security System (SSS)—and a speechwriter and spokesperson of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his martial law regime.

I was a national democratic activist, but I married early and had to work to feed my young child then. This letter expresses my reaction to new reports ("Victims recall sexual violence in detention," Front Page, 2/26/16; "Joma, Marcos victims split on Libingan issue," Second Front Page, 5/25/16; "Rody wants issue buried but it just refuses to die," Front Page, 8/10/16) about Bonifacio "Boni" Ilagan and other so-called "activists" opposing the burial of Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Ilagan is also one of the convenors of the Campaign Against the Return of the Marcoses to Malacañang or Carmma, which opposed the vice presidential candidacy of Bongbong Marcos in the last elections. I saw Ilagan giving media interviews against the dictator Marcos while concealing his long-time association with the latter through the PCSS, as one of the fair-haired boys of Cristobal.

Liza Maza and several so-called activists also served Marcos at PCSS during martial law. Ilagan and other so-called activists who worked as writers of speeches and books (excluding Maza) wine and dined almost every week inside PCSS or SSS. They received fat salaries and rewards such as Bliss condos and well-funded projects. Ilagan was also close to Cristobal's family and frequented the latter's house. They even put up a

magazine to deodorize Marcos's wrongdoings.

Is this not the height of hypocrisy for Ilagan to denounce now the horror of martial law while taking part in sowing such horror? Likewise for Liza Maza et al. who still portray themselves as "revolutionaries"—a grave distortion of history.

I am against the burial of Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. He doesn't deserve that, being the dictator who killed, maimed, tortured, imprisoned several student-activists, workers, peasants, and urban poor Filipinos. My first cousin, a young farmer then, was arrested in the early days of martial law by Marcos' soldiers in Central Luzon, imprisoned, and later disappeared. His captors told his parents that he had escaped, but his fellow political prisoners said that he was whisked away one night after he was tortured.

My cousin, my childhood buddy, is my inspiration until now as a part-time "nat-dem" activist still dreaming, as I did when I was a full-time activist many years ago, of genuine liberation and a national democratic Philippine society.

Prof. Jose Ma. Sison and Ka Louie Jalandoni, for me, are the genuine revolutionaries, but they should tell Boni Ilagan et al. who want Bongbong to ask forgiveness for the sins of his father to do the same for the role they played in deodorizing the martial law regime.

Never again to martial law and to the return of the Marcoses to Malacañang. To pseudo activists-revolutionaries, stop fooling the Filipino people as Marcos did.

ROWENA B. REYES,
rbreyes12345@gmail.com

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PUNCHLINE

Land to rebels-DU30; Peace accord finalized

By FRED LOBO

THE government is considering the grant of public lands and "concessions" to Communist rebels and Muslim insurgents to ensure the success of the peace process.

Good and practical approaches to peace needed, President Duterte says.

The government and the National Democratic Front (NDF) reached initial agreements on several vital issues in the final stages of their peace negotiations in the Netherlands.

Here comes the peace accord long hoped for...

President Duterte said he recognized that both the Communists and Muslim rebels want to get some funds or resources to start over with before laying down their arms.

Quid pro quo. Something to live on, rebels plead.

"We can only talk and if you are able to convince the Communists, they would require a huge amount, resources. They will not go into a surrendering mode by just simply dropping the guns. They would ask for concessions," Duterte disclosed at the recent Davao City agri-business forum.

Guns for cash, jobs, or land, rebels insist.

"Concessions would be land, which is very good. I agree with them, I can open up the whole, the entire Republic of the Philippines, all public lands..." he said.

Land for rebels may work well, the President said.

The President said he would be "happy" not only to give land but also funds amounting to "another billions of pesos" to the rebels talking peace with the government.

Assistance instead of punishment.

As for the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the President said he may allow the return of the territory they owned for centuries in Mindanao.

"They would relish a return of a fraction of what they own," Duterte pointed out.

However, Duterte admitted it would require a "huge expenditure" to develop the Muslim territory.

"They have lost that initiative for all of these years, they've been fighting for their land," he lamented.

The President said he would hold a meeting with MNLF founding Chairman Nur Misuari this week to advance the peace process in Mindanao.

Law enforcers have been ordered not to enforce the arrest warrant against Misuari, who has long been wanted for the deadly Zamboanga siege in 2013, he said.

Duterte reiterated the need to address the armed conflicts in Mindanao stemming from the historical injustices committed by American and Spanish colonizers against the Moro people.

"Iyong Islam naman was already thriving here in Mindanao... before they came here," he explained.

The President said he will leave it to leaders of various MNLF factions - Misuari, Muslimin Sema, and AbdulKhayr Alonto, who is chairman of the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), on how to "fix internal dynamics."

The three are willing to talk again, so let them talk things over, Duterte said.

Meanwhile, the peace negotiations between the Philippine Government (GRP) and National Democratic Front (NDF) have advanced, forging pivotal agreements on socioeconomic reforms (SER), political and constitutional reforms (PCR), and end of hostilities-disposition of forces (EDH-DOF) ahead of the formal closing of discussions.

Signs are positive. Peace is coming.

"The efforts extended by the RWC and RWGs were commendable. Exhibiting a great amount of patience, they worked around the clock and refused to be stymied by minor differences of opinions," said GRP Peace Panel Chair Silvestre Bello III.

Patience and focus work wonders, indeed.

Bello proposed that a joint agreement on a bilateral ceasefire be signed on October 26 in Davao City, to be witnessed by Pres. Duterte.

Let the "peace of the living" comes, as wished by the President and the people.



Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

ONLINE NEWS 12 OCTOBER 2016

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PHL underscores rule of law in sharing counterterrorism best practices

President Duterte reiterates he has no intention to abrogate military alliances PHL underscores rule of law in sharing counterterrorism best practices

The Philippines highlighted the rule of law and the protection of human rights in sharing with the United Nations its recent experience and best practices in fighting the global scourge of terrorism, the Department of Foreign Affairs on Tuesday said.

In her statement before the Sixth Committee (Legal) of the UN General Assembly, Ambassador Lourdes Yparraguirre, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the UN, affirmed the country's unwavering commitment to the fight against terrorism and emphasized the rule of law and human rights in the campaign to counter violent extremism using the "whole of nation" approach.

This approach engages non-traditional government agencies, the academe and the private sector as partners in the fight against terrorism.

The Ambassador informed fellow diplomats in the meeting that, "On ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law as the fundamental basis in fighting terrorism. The Philippines finalized earlier this year its Philippine National Counter Terrorism Strategy which is a product of a series of inter-agency workshops/writeshops and built upon four work streams, namely, Prevent, Protect, Prepare and Respond with the "whole-of-nation" and "rule of law-based" approaches as guiding principles."

Yparraguirre also outlined the Philippines' long-standing cooperation including with the UN on counterterrorism, including the UN Center for Counterterrorism (UNCCT) on the "Advance Passenger Information" (API) and/or "Passenger Name Record" (PNR) system, as convened by the Anti-Terrorism Council, which primarily want to address the "Foreign Terrorist/ Jihadist Fighters Phenomenon" (i.e. travel for foreign nationals to Iraq or Syria to fight for DAESH), the same in relation to Article 9 of UNSC 2178 (2014) the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on developing and strengthening "National Frameworks for the Protection and Support for Victims of Terrorism Within the Criminal Justice Framework," the UN Inter-Regional Criminal and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) on "Biological Materials of Concern Write-Shop" consistent with the Philippines' obligations under the Biological Weapons Convention, and with the Global Initiative on Combating Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Other relevant initiatives and accomplishments of the Philippines include harnessing the potentials of women, the youth, and Muslim leaders and teachers in coming up with a sort of a national network and a positive force for moderation, peace, democracy, and development; enacting the landmark Strategic Trade Management Act (Republic Act No. 10697) which seeks to uphold national security and support counterterrorism by preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the country; establishing the Chemical-Biological-Radiological-Nuclear (CBRN) Center of Excellence Regional Headquarters in Manila; and training law enforcement and security experts in refining the country's Manual on Collaborative Intelligence, Investigation and Prosecution of Terrorism-Related Cases.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=930409>

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Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

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3 PN ships, 2 RAN vessels to participate in Exercise 'Lumbas'

From the Philippine News Agency (11): 3 PN ships, 2 RAN vessels to participate in Exercise 'Lumbas'

Three Philippine Navy ships (PN) and two vessels of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) will be participating in Exercise "Lumbas" which started Monday and will end on October 21.

Lt. Bennet Christian P. Nuevarez, Exercise "Lumbas" public affairs office chief, said the Australian ships are the HMAS Larrakia and HMAS Glenelg while the Filipino vessels are the BRP Abraham Campo, BRP Batak and BRP Agta.

"Lumbas" started in 1998 and is annual exercise between the PN and RAN.

BRP Abraham Campo is a Navarette-class gunboat while BRPs Batak and Agta are the former "Balikpapan" class landing craft heavies acquired from the RAN in 2014 and delivered in 2015.

While HMAS Larrakia and Glenelg are Armidable-class patrol boats of the Royal Australian Navy.

The maneuvers formally opened at 8:00 a.m. at Naval Forces Central, Naval Base Rafael Ramos, Barangay Lo-oc, Lapu-Lapu City.

Acting as keynote speaker and guest-of-honor was Central Command head Major Gen. Raul L. Del Rosario.

Exercise "Lumbas" aims to enhance inter-operability and strengthen partnership between the PN and the RAN and validate, enhance and evaluate combined/respective doctrines, techniques, tactics and procedures for threat from the sea, piracy and other scenarios.

Representatives from local and national government agencies such as the Regional Maritime Group, Philippine Coast Guard, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, Bureau of Quarantine, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, Provincial Risk Reduction and Management Council and Cebu Port Authority were invited to participate in the command exercises and subject matter expert exchanges.

Nuevarez said at-sea exercises will be held off the Camotes Sea northeast Cebu while tabletop exercises will be held at Naval Forces Central headquarters in Toledo City.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=930417>

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PNP-CIDG hunting down ASG in Metro Manila

From the Philippine News Agency (11): **PNP-CIDG hunting down ASG in Metro Manila**

The Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) is now hunting down t Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) bandits in Metro Manila.

According to the PNP-CIDG, the ASG has two groups who have penetrated Metro Manila.

This was confirmed by the PNP-CIDG after a suspected Indonesian bomb expert who has direct links with the ASG terrorists was arrested.

The suspect was arrested in Barangay Culiat, Quezon City last Saturday, by virtue of a warrant of arrest and search warrant.

PNP-CIDG's Anti-Transnational Crime Unit (ATCU) head, Chief Insp. Roque Merdeguia on Tuesday said that the mission of the said Abu Sayyaf bandits in Metro Manila has not yet been determined.

The PNP said that the arrest of Mohammad Amin, an Indonesian-trained bomber, was a big blow to the ASG.

Merdeguia added that they are continuously gathering information to arrest the other ASG members who are now in the metropolis.

He also urged the public to remain calm such that the PNP is also doing everything to arrest the ASG bandits who are out to sow violence.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=930427>

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PHIBLEX a success as PMC, USMC successfully integrate in week-long maneuvers

From the Philippine News Agency (11): PHIBLEX a success as PMC, USMC successfully integrate in week-long maneuvers

Despite ending a day earlier, US 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade commander Brig. Gen. John Jansen called the 33rd iteration of the Philippine Amphibious Landing Exercise (PHIBLEX) a success as both sides have successfully integrated with each other during the week-long maneuvers.

PHIBLEX started Oct. 4 and was originally scheduled to end on Wednesday but the annual exercises between the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) and US Marine Corps (USMC) concluded on Tuesday due to previous commitment of senior military leaders.

"I would also like to say up front what a pleasure it has been working with Major General Andre Costales, the visionary Commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps. Sir, I could not think of a finer Marine, a better Marine Corps Officer, or a better partner in which to engage in the endeavor over the past 10 months that has produced a truly remarkable PHIBLEX exercise and your Exercise Director, Brigadier General Maximo Ballesteros has done a wonderful job of making it all happen," he added.

Jansen stressed that the successful conclusion of the PHIBLEX exercises have showcased the brotherhood of the USMC and PMC and their inter-operability and effectiveness as a bilateral rapid response force.

"I have been impressed by the professionalism and capabilities of all of the forces involved. We learn from the Philippine Marines in their superior jungle warfare school and outstanding combat engineering skills as they learn from us on amphibious from the sea operations and integrated fire command and control," he added.

Around 1,400 US military personnel and 500 Filipino troops have participated in the event.

"Our training together as Marines makes us all better Marines and more capable as an inter-operable force that provides the capability that we might apply to our treaty obligations in the future whether it be in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, assistance in internal security, or in other times of crisis as determined by our two great nations," he concluded.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=930498>

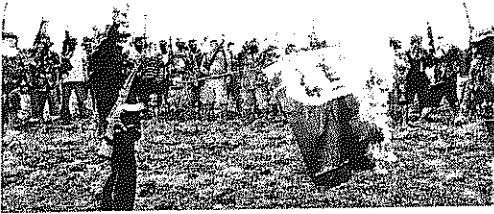
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ISIS confirms 'minister of information' killed

Agence France-Presse / 09:43 AM October 11, 2016



Red God's civilian defenders set on fire an ISIS flag in Central Mindanao mountains, Jan. 19. JEOFFREY MAITEM

BEIRUT, Lebanon — The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) said Monday that a senior operative considered the group's information minister had been killed, confirming an earlier Pentagon report.

An ISIS statement on social media affirmed the "martyrdom" of Abu Mohammad al-Furqan, the nom de guerre of Wa'il Adil Hasan Salman al-Fayad, saying he was an "emir" of the group's central media body. It did not release any further details.

Last month the Pentagon said al-Fayad, also known as "Dr. Wa'il", was killed in a precision strike on September 7 near Raqqa, the Syrian city that is the de facto capital of the Islamic State jihadist group.

He oversaw the group's media production of videos showing torture and executions, said the Pentagon, describing him as "one of ISIL's most senior leaders" and a close associate of Abu Mohamed al-Adnani, the ISIS group spokesman killed on August 30.

Since it announced a self-styled caliphate across Iraq and Syria in 2014, ISIS has become notorious for broadcasting its macabre tactics.

The group's online network has taken advantage of social media's instant publishing power to circulate footage of mass killings and beheadings. **CBB**

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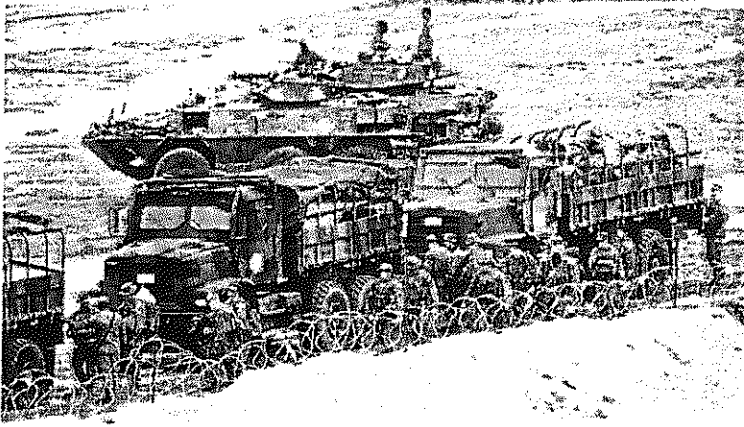
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PH to keep pact with US for security, says Yasay

By: Jocelyn R. Uy / @inquirerdotnet

Philippine Daily Inquirer 12:28 AM October 11, 2016



US and PH Marines ended joint amphibious landing exercises a day ahead of schedule. No reason was given. —
MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. on Monday said the Philippine government will keep its mutual defense treaty with the United States as security against aggression in the disputed West Philippine Sea but underscored that the alliance should not be carried out to perpetuate dependency.

In a statement posted on the Department of Foreign Affairs website, Yasay also said the Philippines will not hesitate to terminate international agreements "when national interest will no longer be served."

Yasay explained that the primary consideration of the Duterte administration in pursuing an independent foreign policy was to protect and uphold the national interests in promoting friendship with all nations.

He said all countries, whether weak or strong and small or big, are interdependent of each other.

"This is how every country will make their economy dynamic, robust and sustainable for the welfare of its people," he said.

But he stressed that the government will not allow bullying by any nation to make the Philippines bend to its interests.

"Henceforth, we will reject any aid, assistance or opportunities for joint cooperation from anyone under onerous conditions or offered pursuant to a carrot and stick policy," said the DFA chief.

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He added that a military alliance must allow the Philippines to be self-reliant in dealing with internal and external threats to its security.

"Even as we will respect and keep our mutual defense treaty with the US as our safeguard against any risk or menace from external aggression that undermines our territorial integrity, sovereignty and maritime entitlements under international law, this important alliance cannot be carried out to perpetuate our dependency thereby making us vulnerable to subservience," he said.

In his latest outbursts against Western interference, President Duterte said he would sever ties with the country's longtime ally during his term and build alliances with Russia and China instead.

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