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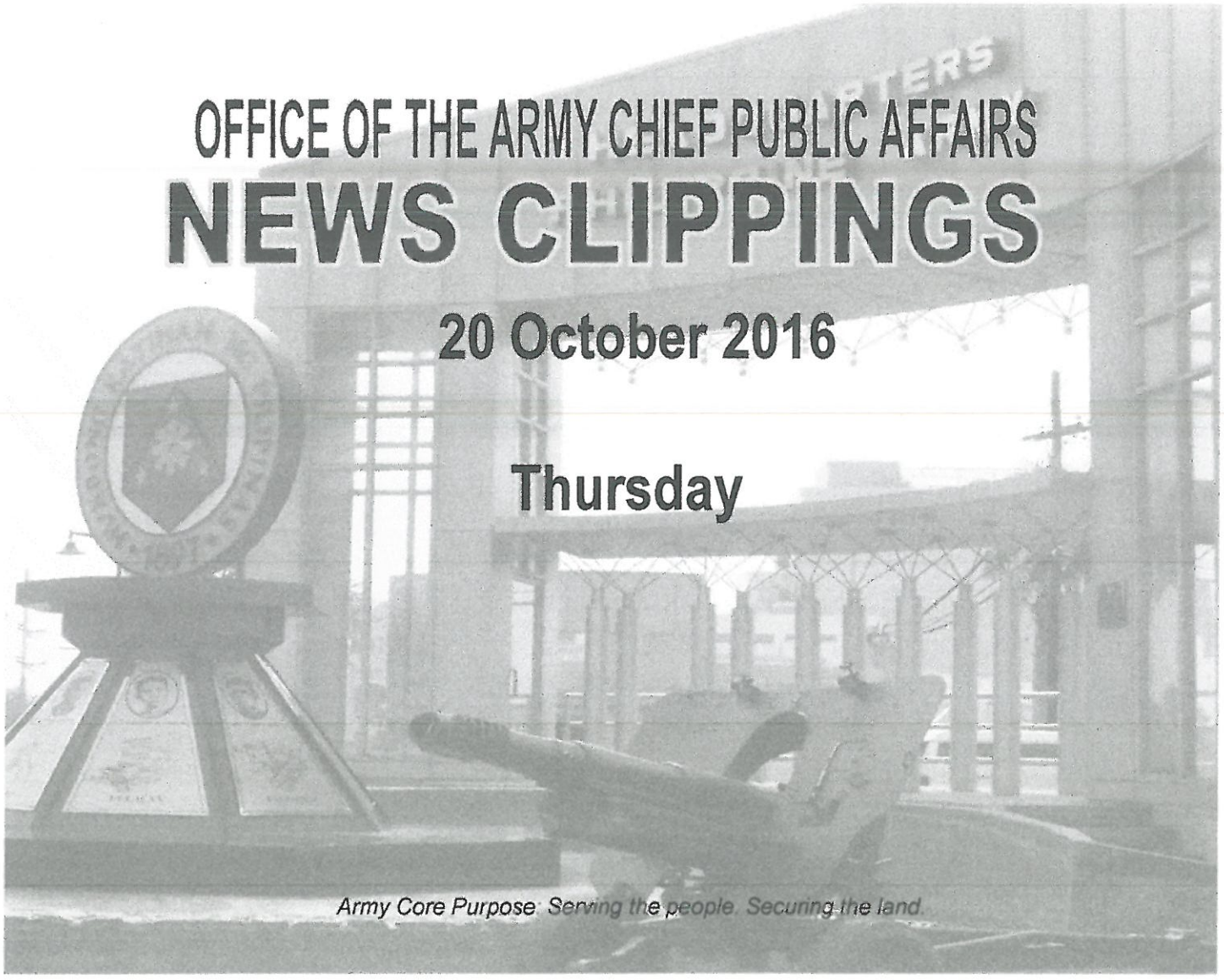

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

20 October 2016

Thursday

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20 OCTOBER 2016

The Manila Times

Congress and the drug killings: See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil

Change is coming to the US Alliance

CLASSES SUSPENDED IN METRO MANILA, SEVERAL LUZON PROVINCES

Lawin raises signal no. 5

BIGGER THAN 'YOLANDA'

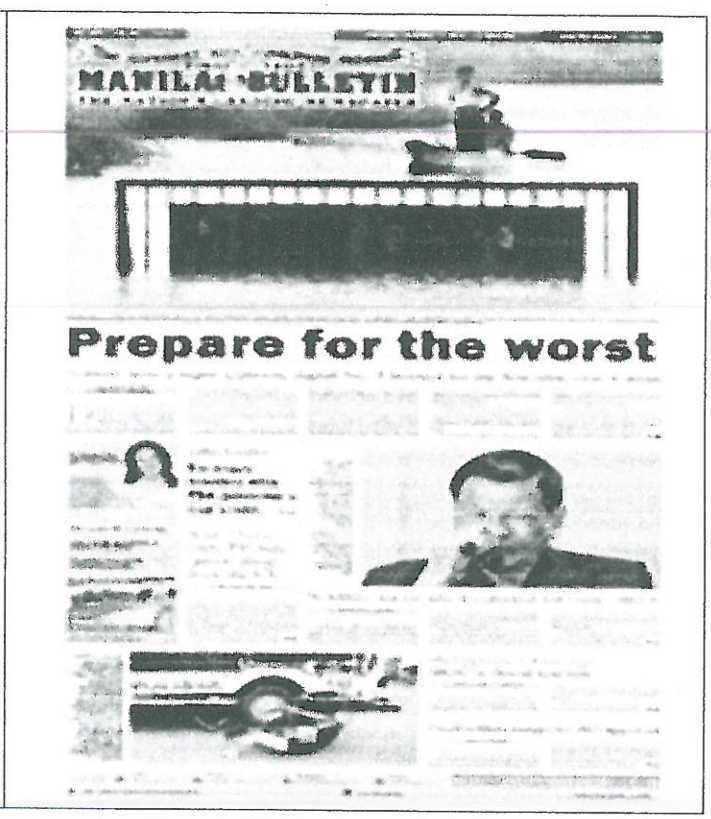
'Don't restrain me from doing business with China'

Joint exploration with China backed

House committee votes for Con-Ass

PH casinos playing a dangerous game

Obama to Trump. Stop whining over 'rigged' elections


MANILA BULLETIN

Prepare for the worst

OMG!

BusinessMirror

'Developers avoiding socialized housing'

HOUSE APPROVES P3.3T 2017 BUDGET

₱478.1B

₱150,000

COMP urges govt to focus campaign on small miners

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

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)
Weather Division
ISO: 9001:2008
Registry No. 01 100 1534769

SEVERE WEATHER BULLETIN #14

FOR: SUPER TYPHOON "LAWIN" (HAIMA)

TROPICAL CYCLONE: WARNING

TCWS	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao	Impacts of the wind
4 (171-220 kph Expected in 12 hours)	Rest of Isabela, Rest of Abra, Ilocos Sur, Mt. Province, Rest of Kalinga, Ifugao and Calayan Group of Islands			• Very heavy damage to high-risk structures • Heavy damage to medium risk structures; • Moderate damage to low-risk structures • Considerable damage to structures of light materials (up to 75% are totally and partially destroyed); complete roof structure failures. • Many houses of medium-built materials are unroofed, some with collapsed walls; extensive damage to doors and windows • A few houses of first-class materials are partially damaged • All signs/billboards are blown down. There is almost total damage to banana plantation • Most mango trees, ipil-ipil and similar types of large trees are downed or broken • Coconut plantation may suffer extensive damage. • Rice and corn plantation may suffer severe losses
	Wave Height: (Open Sea) more than 14.0 meters			Storm surge 2-3m possible at coastal areas
3 (121-170 kph Expected in 18 hours)	La Union, Benguet, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino and Northern Aurora			• Heavy damage to high-risk structures; • Moderate damage to medium-risk structures; • Light damage to low risk structures • Increasing damage (up to more than 50%) to old, dilapidated residential structures and houses of light materials. Majority of all nipa and cogon houses may be unroofed or destroyed • Houses of medium strength materials (old, timber or mixed timber-CHB structures, usually with G.I. roofing's); some warehouses or bodega-type structures are unroofed. • There may be widespread disruption of electrical power and communication services. • Almost all banana plants are downed • Some big trees (acacia, mango, etc) are broken or uprooted. • Dwarf-type or hybrid coconut trees are tilted or downed. • Rice and corn crops may suffer heavy losses. • Damage to shrubbery and trees with foliage blown off, some large trees blown down.
	Wave Height: (Open Sea) > 14.0 meters			Storm surge possible at coastal areas
2 (61-120 kph Expected in 24 hours)	Batanes Group of Islands, Pangasinan, Rest of of Aurora, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija and Northern Zambales,			• Light to Moderate damage to high risk structures; • Very light to light damage to medium-risk structures; • No damage to very light damage to low risk structures • Unshielded, old dilapidated schoolhouses, makeshift shanties, and other structures of light materials are partially damaged or unroofed • A number of nipa and cogon houses may be partially or totally unroofed. • Some old galvanized iron (G.I.) roofs may be peeled or blown off. • Some wooden, old electric posts are tilted or downed. • Some damage to poorly constructed signs/billboards • In general, the winds may bring light to moderate damage to the exposed communities. Most banana plants, a few mango trees, ipil-ipil and similar types of trees are downed or broken. • Some coconut trees may be tilted with few others broken. • Rice and corn may be adversely affected. • Considerable damage to shrubbery and trees with some heavy-foliaged trees blown down.
	Wave Height: (Open Sea) 4.1-14.0 meters			Storm surge possible at coastal areas
1 (30-60 kph Expected in 36 hours)	Rest of Zambales, Bulacan, Bataan, Pampanga, Rizal, Quezon Province including Polillo Island, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, and Metro Manila			• Very light or no damage to low risk structures, • Light damage to medium to high risk structures • Slight damage to some houses of very light materials or makeshift structures in exposed communities. Some banana plants are tilted, a few downed and leaves are generally damaged • Twigs of small trees may be broken. • Rice crops, however, may suffer significant damage when it is in its flowering stage.
	Wave Height: (Open Sea) 1.25-4.0 meters			

The public and the disaster risk reduction and management council concerned are advised to take appropriate actions and watch for the next weather bulletin to be issued at 5 AM today.

Prepared by: MAGGIE

Checked by: RSS

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)
Weather Division
ISO: 9001:2008
Registry No. 01 100 1534769

WFS-07
Rev.1/05-06-2016

SEVERE WEATHER BULLETIN #14

FOR: SUPER TYPHOON "LAWIN" (HAIMA)

TROPICAL CYCLONE: WARNING

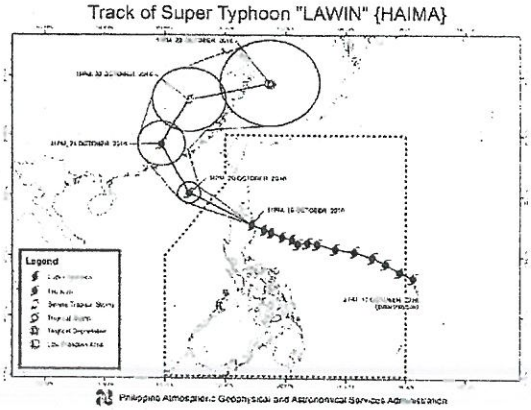
ISSUED AT 2:00 AM, 20 October 2016
(Valid for broadcast until the next bulletin to be issued at 5 AM today)

SUPER TYPHOON "LAWIN" HAS MADE LANDFALL OVER PEÑABLANCA, CAGAYAN AND IS NOW TRAVERSING APAYAO PROVINCE.

- Estimated rainfall amount is from heavy to intense within the 400 km inner diameter of the Super Typhoon while moderate to occasionally heavy rains elsewhere.
- It is expected to exit the landmass via Ilocos Norte between 8-10 this morning (October 20).
- Possible to exit PAR this evening (Oct. 20).
- Sea travel is risky over the eastern seaboard of Southern Luzon and the northern and eastern seaboards of Samar.
- Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal over Albay is now lifted.

Location of eye/center	At 1:00 AM today, the eye of Super Typhoon "LAWIN" was located based on all available data including Aparri Doppler radar In the vicinity of Solana, Cagayan (17.7°N, 121.6°E).
Strength	Maximum sustained winds of up to 225 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 315 kph.
Forecast Movement	Forecast to move West Northwest at 25 kph.
Forecast Positions	• **24 Hour**(*Tonight*): **440 km West Northwest of Laoag City, Ilocos Norte (OUTSIDE PAR)(20.2°N, 117.0°E)** • **48 Hour**(*Saturday morning*):**865 km West Northwest of Basco, Batanes (OUTSIDE PAR)(24.3°N, 114.7°E)** • **72 Hour**(*Sunday morning*): **980 km North Northwest of Basco, Batanes (OUTSIDE PAR)(28.0°N, 117.0°E)** • **96 Hour**(*Monday morning*):**1,015 km North of Basco, Batanes (OUTSIDE PAR)(29.3°N, 122.5°E)**

Track of Super Typhoon "LAWIN" {HAIMA}



TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNAL

TCWS	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao	Impacts of the wind
5 (More than 220 kph Expected in 12 hours)	Cagayan, Northern Isabela, Apayao, Northern Kalinga Northern Abra and Ilocos Norte			• Widespread damage to high-risk structures • Heavy damage to medium risk structures; • Very heavy damage to low-risk structures • Almost total damage to structures of light materials, especially in highly exposed coastal areas • Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Severe and extensive window and door damage • Most residential and institutional buildings of mixed construction may be severely damaged. • Electrical power distribution and communication services severely disrupted. • All signs/billboards blown down. • Total damage to banana plantation • Most tall trees are broken, uprooted or defoliated; • Coconut trees are stooped, broken or uprooted. • Few plants and trees survived.
	Wave Height: (Open Sea) more than 14.0 meters Storm surge more than 3 meters possible at coastal areas			

Prepared by: MAGGE

Checked by: RSS

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10 October 2016 THE PHILIPPINE STAR Page: 1

Category 5 monster howler hits Phl today

Story on Page 8

Super Typhoon Lawin barreled toward the northern Philippines yesterday, classified in some reports as a "beast" of a Category 5 howler.

People were forcibly evacuated, classes suspended and all rescue and relief personnel placed on full alert before Lawin made landfall in Cagayan and Isabela last night or early today.

In Beijing, President Duterte said the government had put in place all things necessary to mitigate whatever consequences the typhoon would bring.

"We are ready for everything...We only pray that we be spared of a destruction such as in the previous path which brought agony and suffering to our people," Duterte, who is in China for a visit, said.

Duterte said cooperation of the public was needed to minimize property damage and casualties.

"What will areas under signal No. 5 experience? A deluge," Aldczar Aurelio, weather forecaster at the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said. Cagayan, Isabela, Kalinga and Apayao are under the highest storm warning.

Aurelio said the typhoon could generate storm surges as high as five meters (16.4 feet), particularly in the coast of Cagayan, including Calayan, Isabela, Northern Aurora and Ilocos Norte.

Heavy to intense rains would prevail over Isabela, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Benguet and Mountain Province that could trigger flashfloods and landslides, he said.

Moderate to heavy rains, meanwhile, will affect Ifugao, Abra and Kalinga.

Signal No. 4 was hoisted over Ilocos Norte, Abra, Ilocos Sur, Mountain Province, Ifugao and Calayan Group of Islands.

Signal No. 3 was up in La Union, Benguet, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino and Northern Aurora.

Signal No. 2 was raised in Batanes Group of Islands, Pangasinan, rest of Aurora, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Northern Zambales and Northern Quezon, including Polillo Islands.

Metro Manila, rest of Zambales, Pampanga, Bulacan, Bataan, Pampanga, Rizal, rest of Quezon, Cavite, Laguna, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes and Albay were placed under signal No. 1.

Lawin, wider in diameter than super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) in 2013, was forecast to move west-northwest at 25

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monster howler hits Phl today

By HELEN FLORES and JAIME LAUDE

kilometers per hour (kph).

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, the eye of Lawin was spotted at 275 kilometers east-southeast of Tuguegarao City, Cagayan with packing winds of 225 kph and gustiness of up to 315 kph.

PAGASA assistant weather services section chief Rene Paciente said almost the entire Luzon could feel the effect of Lawin, which has a diameter of 800 kilometers.

Although it was not expected to surpass the wind intensity of 235 kph of Yolanda, Lawin would be larger than Yolanda in terms of diameter, he said. Yolanda, which left thousands of people dead, had a 600-km diameter.

"No matter where it makes landfall it is very destructive because the typhoon is very large," Paciente said in a press briefing.

Paciente said Lawin could bring light to moderate rains over Metro Manila.

Aurelio said sea travel was risky over the eastern seaboard of Southern Luzon and the northern and eastern seaboards of Samar.

Lawin is expected to exit landmass of Northern Luzon this afternoon. It is forecast to leave the Philippine area of responsibility tonight or early tomorrow morning and move to China.

Aurelio said improved weather was expected in the entire country beginning tomorrow, apart from isolated thunderstorms in Mindanao.

Pray for a miracle

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council executive director and Office of Civil Defense (OCD) administrator Ricardo Jalad said massive preemptive evacuation was done in four regions in Northern and Central Luzon as he gave assurance that sufficient stocks of relief goods were in place and ready for distribution to people who would be displaced by the super typhoon.

All local chief executives and the public, especially those in Northern Luzon, were urged to take necessary precautions with the arrival of Lawin, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), for its part, said.

The Philippine National Police said disaster response troops, equipment and supplies were prepositioned to areas threatened by the super typhoon.

PNP resources and personnel were also rushed to Northern Luzon to augment local police units for possible disaster response.

The 19,000-strong National Capital Regional Police Office was placed on full alert, with its director, Chief Superintendent Oscar Albayalde ordering the 120-man search and rescue team on standby for any eventuality.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) also warned residents of Pampanga and Zambales of possible dangers from lahar flows from Mt. Pinatubo due to the typhoon.

Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba and Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy III have started forced evacuation and suspended classes since Tuesday to prepare for the onslaught of Lawin.

Rogie Sending of Cagayan's information office said Mamba ordered preparations for a worst-case scenario.

But while preparing for the worst, Pangasinan Gov. Amado Espino III called on the people to "pray that the super typhoon will drastically weaken and cause no harm to our provincemates and to our fellow Filipinos."

The Catholic Church and Iglesia ni Cristo, including other churches in Cagayan, opened their doors to evacuees.

Mamba also asked the Department of Education (DepEd) to allow the provincial government to use 30 to 40 new senior high school buildings to accommodate other evacuees.

Both Cagayan and Isabela also declared a no-sail policy and liquor ban as precautionary measures.

In Cagayan, floods are threatening the towns of Enrile, Solana, Iguig, Amulung, Alcala, Gattaran, Lasam, Lallo, Camalaniugan, Aparri, Santa Ana and Santa Teresita.

In Isabela, Dy said areas in Isabela being closely monitored were the towns of Cabagan, Tumauini, Jones, San Agustin, Echague, Alicia, Ramon, Gamu, Angadanan, Santo Tomas and the cities of Ilagan, Cauayan and Santiago including the coastal towns of Maconacon, Dinapigue, Divilacan and Palanan.

Hundreds of families evacuated during Typhoon Karen were advised to stay at the evacuation centers due to Lawin.

In Camp Marcelo Adduru in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan Valley police director Chief Supt. Gilbert Sosa said he has mobilized 753 disaster-trained personnel for operations and assured the public of availability of equipment such as rubber boats, life vests, portable generators, rappelling gear, chainsaw and other search, rescue and retrieval operations gadgets.

In Metro Manila, Albayalde directed his five police district directors to closely monitor low-lying areas of Navotas, Malabon, Caloocan, Valenzuela, Quezon City, Marikina, Pasig, Taguig, Parañaque and Muntinlupa City and spearhead evacuation of residents to higher ground once the water in these areas rises.

The NCRPO has prepared trucks and other vehicles to help evacuate residents in affected areas.

Albayalde also coordinated with local government units (LGUs) for the use of their rubber boats once the situation called for it.

"We have no rubber boats under our disposal but the LGUs have. So we lend them (LGUs) our trained search and rescue (SAR) teams when there's the need for them," said Albayalde in an interview.

"We should be on our toes during the next few days as weather forecasters warned that Typhoon Lawin is very strong," said Albayalde, noting that the NCRPO was aiming for zero casualty.

All hands must be on deck

"With the coming of Typhoon Karen last week, our LGUs had a fast response time in their evacuation," Interior Secretary Ismael Sueno said.

But Sueno said they must be more prepared now.

Sueno, vice chairperson of the NDRRMC urged LCEs to apply the framework of the "Oplan Listo" disaster preparedness program and use their Disaster Preparedness Manual's Checklist of Minimum Critical Preparations for Mayors.

"Mayors are the frontliners and first responders in the event of forthcoming disaster, so there must be concrete planning," the secretary said.

"In the Oplan Listo manual, there are guidelines on how to determine Critical Preparedness Actions based on the conditions of the LGU – amount of rainfall, wind speed, critical areas, and potential impact. Those are what need to be assessed. Then, based on that, they can follow the protocols provided in the manual's flowcharts for preparation, response, and monitoring of the typhoon," Sueno said. – **With Cecille Suerte Felipe, Non Alquitran, Raymund Catindig, Victor Martin, Eva Visperas, Ding Cervantes, Alexis Romero**

10 October 2016

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Page: 1

No military alliance, joint exploration with China

By ALEXIS ROMERO

BEIJING – President Duterte may have decided to stop the war exercises between the Philippines and the US, but he is also not keen on pursuing a military alliance with China or with any other country "to avoid adding fuel" to what he described as a "volatile" world.

Duterte also ruled out discussions on joint oil and gas exploration in the West Philippine Sea during his four-day state visit here.

In a press briefing, the President said the Philippines would not meddle in brewing conflict among some countries because it would not promote anything positive.

"There will be no military alliances entered into. There will be no military alliances broken. What I am just saying is that we are not interested in adding fuel to what is already a volatile world," he said.

"There is no such thing as allowing the missiles here or missiles there, I would not allow it," Duterte said yesterday when asked if he would forge a military alliance with China.

"I am not into that. And if you talk about America, Russia, vis-à-vis China, Great Britain, France, Iran, Pakistan, India, there is a conflict going on, it's getting hot," he added.

Duterte said he believes there is no point in acquiring powerful bombs or missiles as an international conflict could

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No military

From Page 1

"end the world."

"Why should I borrow missiles or ask for nuclear bomb? For what? They were just crazy people who would want to pull a stack on a matter of national pride," the Philippine leader said.

"And if you think that if those nuclear bombs will explode at the same time, then we might not be able to board our last men out of China because it will just simply end the world," he added.

Early this month, Duterte said he would end the joint military drills with US forces after American officials called him out for the spate of killings tied to his brutal war on drugs.

He said he has no plan to cut alliances with the US but maintained that the Philippines should follow a more independent foreign policy.

Early this month, Duterte expressed doubts on the importance of military alliances, which he believes would no longer matter in the age of advanced weapons.

"I do not mean to cancel or abrogate the military alliances but let me ask you: 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 said in a speech delivered last Oct. 11.

"Do we need China and Russia – for that matter, do we need somebody? If they fight, if they launch ICBMs (intercontinental ballistic missiles) or Poseidon (either a type of US military aircraft or a discontinued US ballistic missile), there will be no more American 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 (National hero Dr. Jose Rizal's 'My Last Farewell')."

Duterte said he would rather go for alliances that would promote the health, education and the welfare of the next generation.

Joint exploration

Duterte also said the issue on joint oil and gas exploration in the West Philippine Sea would not be discussed during his four-day state visit here.

He explained he is not authorized to discuss the issue because the sharing of resources requires the approval of Congress and "every Filipino involved."

"No, I don't think that will be right," the President said when asked whether he would bring up joint exploration in the West Philippine Sea in his meetings with Chinese leaders.

"If you plan to give up something or if you try to share what you have if it is really yours, then you cannot talk about it openly on your own. This has to be with the consent of Congress and everybody, every Filipino involved in town," he added.

"So at this time, I am not empowered to do that, I cannot give something and I cannot also add what has not been given me."

Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. echoed the President's position, saying it is not the time to discuss the issue.

"We're not talking about joint exploration. This is not the time to talk about joint exploration. We're just simply talking about how we can improve better ties with China without eroding or compromising our disputes, which is just a small portion of our relationship with China," Yasay said in a separate interview.

Earlier reports said officials of the Duterte administration and the Chinese government are in talks to forge a deal that would allow them to jointly explore oil or natural gas in the West Philippine Sea. According to the report, the deal is being finalized and may first cover uncontested areas.

Fishing rights

While the joint exploration of oil and gas is not in the agenda of his state visit, Duterte said he would mention the issue on the Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal to Chinese leaders "in passing."

"It's (issue) very important because it's livelihood. We'll not talk hard on who owns what because that is contested," Duterte said.

He had announced he would ask Chinese leaders to allow Filipino fishermen to enter the shoal, which is located 124 nautical miles from Zambales. Chinese ships took control of the shoal in 2012 after a standoff with the Philippine Navy and have since maintained presence in the area.

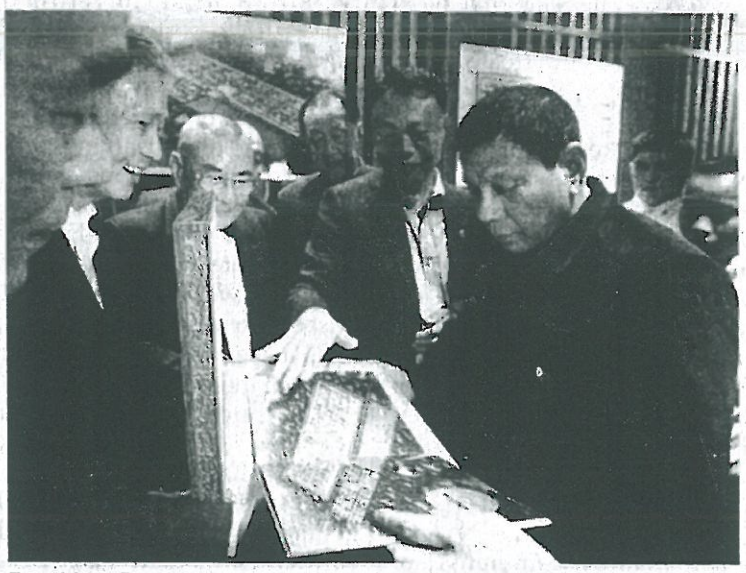
Although well within the Philippines' 200-mile exclusive economic zone, Panatag Shoal is covered by China's nine-dash line, a territorial claim that covers about 90 percent of the resource-rich West Philippine Sea and South China Sea. The legality of the claim was challenged by the Philippines before an international court in 2013.

Last July, the tribunal based in The Hague ruled in favor of the Philippines and declared that China's nine-dash line has no legal basis.

The court also ruled that the Philippines has sovereign rights over the Panganiban (Mischief) Reef, Ayungin (Second Thomas) Shoal, and Recto (Reed) Bank, all in the waters of Palawan.

While the tribunal said it was not ruling on sovereignty issue over Panatag Shoal, it declared that China had violated its duty to respect the Filipinos' traditional fishing rights by preventing them from entering the shoal.

The West Philippine Sea row is expected to be tackled during Duterte's meetings with Chinese officials today. The Philippine president is scheduled to hold separate



President Duterte receives an architect's perspective and blueprint of the proposed drug addiction treatment center to be donated by the Friends of the Philippines Foundation during a lunch meeting at Dadong Roast Duck Restaurant in Beijing yesterday.

meetings with Chinese president Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang and National People's Congress chairman Zhang Dejiang.

"We would like to thank the People's Republic of China for allowing us to visit the country and to have a wide ranging bilateral talks regarding shared mutual benefits and other issues that are of importance to the regional peace and security particularly the Southeast Asia," Duterte said.

"We have identified broad outlines, there can be no specific agreements at this time and we would be glad to engage them and every other while we can to enhance the peace of the region," he added.

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20 October 2016

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Page: 1

Cabinet not consulted on Phl-US exercise end

By MARVIN SY

President Duterte never consulted his Cabinet before coming out with statements regarding the termination of joint military exercises between the Philippines and the United States, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana disclosed yesterday.

During his confirmation hearing before the Commission on Appointments, Lorenzana was asked by Sen. Franklin Drilon about his position on the military exercises with US forces.

Drilon wanted to find out the actual status of the exercises

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Cabinet From Page 1

as well as the other defense agreements with the US in light of the statements made by Duterte that he wanted an end to the military drills with the Americans.

At the moment, Lorenzana said there was no decision to suspend or terminate the joint exercises, the Visiting Forces Agreement and other agreements with the US.

Lorenzana said he sought guidance from the President regarding these issues and was told to present his recommendations during the Cabinet meeting next month.

As far as Lorenzana is concerned, the joint military exercises are mutually beneficial to the two countries.

"It benefits our troops also. On the other hand, I think the Americans benefit more from these exercises with us," Lorenzana said.

If the exercises are mutually beneficial as stated by Lorenzana, Drilon questioned why these would have to be terminated.

"I really don't know because the President has been issuing these statements without first consulting the Cabinet," Lorenzana said.

"If the President is really intent on what he is telling the media, I think I will recommend the scaling down of exercises next year – Balikatan, PHIBLEX and concentrate on maybe upgrading HADR (human assistance disaster response) and counterterrorism," he added.

Lorenzana said the President should be able to come out with an official decision on the issues after next month's Cabinet meeting.

Duterte previously stated the Balikatan exercises this year would be the last. He has also threatened to terminate the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement.

Drilon also asked Lorenzana if there is a policy to pivot from the US to China as a treaty ally based on the statements being made by the President.

Lorenzana clarified this was not the case. He said the President just wanted the Department of National Defense (DND) to expand its sources of military equipment and to take a look at what China is offering.

Asked if interoperability would be an issue if the DND starts sourcing its equipmer and materials from China Lorenzana admitted this pos es some problems.

"Definitely it would b an issue. Practically all ou equipment are US-made o made by allies of the US. If w inject new equipment there could be interoperability problems," he said.

One issue he foresees is the need to translate the manuals of the China-made equipment from Chinese to English.

20 October 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Page: A1

16 DEALS SWEETEN PH-CHINA POT

STORY BY DAXIM L. LUCAS AND DORIS DUMLAO-ABADILLA

Up for signing are 8 Philippine-Chinese agreements and 8 business deals

The Philippines and China will sign at least eight government-to-government deals on Thursday.

The deals do not include joint exploration for energy resources in the South China Sea.

Mr. Duterte said on Wednesday there were no discussions between Philippine and Chinese officials about joint exploration for oil and natural gas in the heavily contested waterway.

He said joint exploration with China in those waters needed approval by Congress.

Akbayan Rep. Tomasito Villarin warned the government against entering into such an agreement with China, pointing out that it might compromise the Philippines' interests in the South China Sea.

It is not clear whether a fisheries agreement allowing Filipino fishermen access to Scarborough Shoal, or Panatag Shoal, is among those to be signed during Mr. Duterte's four-day state visit to China, which began on Tuesday.

BEIJING ARRIVAL President Duterte is welcomed by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua (right) on his arrival in Beijing. —MALACAÑANG PHOTO

The government-to-government deals, to be signed at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, include cooperation in the fight against crime, which will boost Mr. Duterte's campaign against illegal drugs.

On Friday, Filipino and Chinese businessmen will sign eight agreements covering rail and land transportation, industrial zones, ICT development, infrastructure, tourism, energy and telecommunications.

The deals include one between Huawei and Globe Telecom and another between Alcatel Lucent Shanghai Bell Co. Ltd. and Globe that will add speed to the Philippines' slow internet service.

Another deal is for the construction of a railway that will connect Subic Bay Freeport in Zambales province to Clark Freeport in Pampanga province for the benefit of business and industry locators at both special economic zones.

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8 PH-China gov't deals to be signed

FROM A1

By Doris Dumlao-Abadilla and Daxim L. Lucas
@InquirerBiz

BEIJING—At least eight government-to-government deals are expected to be signed between the Philippines and China on Thursday, including an agreement that will boost President Duterte's campaign against illegal drugs.

The deals do not include joint exploration for energy in the West Philippine Sea, waters in the South China Sea within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

The Inquirer, quoting senior administration officials who spoke on condition of anonymity, reported on Wednesday that talks were going on between Philippine and Chinese officials for joint exploration in an uncontested area of the South China Sea, including Recto Bank.

Joint exploration

Speaking to journalists at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Beijing, Mr. Duterte said there would be no discussions with Chinese officials about joint exploration.

"I do not think that would be right [to propose to Chinese President Xi Jinping]," Mr. Duterte said. "If you plan to give up something, if you plan to share what you have, if it is really yours, then you cannot talk about it openly on your own."

Congressional nod required

He explained that any proposal for joint exploration requires "the consent of Congress and every Filipino involved."

"So at this time, I am not empowered to do that," Mr. Duterte said. "I cannot give something, and I cannot also add what has not been given me."

Mr. Duterte, in China for a state visit, will witness the signing of the agreements at Hebei Room of the Great Hall of the People here.

Based on confidential documents obtained by the Inquirer, a "protocol on cooperation" is in the works between the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the Narcotics Control Bureau of China's Ministry of Public Security.

PDEA Director General Isidro Lapeña is expected to sign the cooperation deal on narcotics control.

It is widely believed that many of the drug lords operating in the Philippines have links to drug kingpins in China.

The Philippine delegation is also working on several other bilateral agreements covering economic and investment cooperation, strengthening of trade links, conduct of feasibility studies involving commerce, financing cooperation and tourism.

This landmark state visit to China is thus seen to resolve the diplomatic chill between the two countries, whose relationship had turned sour in the last three years due to a territorial dispute.

Scarborough Shoal

China was reported on Tuesday as considering giving Filipino fishermen conditional access to Scarborough Shoal, which China seized from the Philippines in 2012, forcing Manila to challenge Beijing's claim to 90 percent of the South China Sea in the UN-backed Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague.

The court handed down a decision on July 12, invalidating China's claims and ruling that Beijing had violated Manila's sovereign rights to fish and explore for resources in waters within its 370-kilometer EEZ in the South China Sea.

Scarborough Shoal, known to Filipinos as Panatag Shoal, is well within the Philippines' EEZ.

China, which did not take part in the arbitration, rejected the tribunal's decision, calling it "waste paper."

Mr. Duterte has said he will not raise the tribunal's ruling during his visit.

Almost 100 deals

Since 1975, when the Philippines established diplomatic ties with China, the two countries have concluded almost 100 bilateral agreements covering political, defense, trade and investments, judicial cooperation, air services, cooperation in combating transactional crimes, consular cooperation, tourism, culture, sports, media exchange, agriculture, science and technology, sister cities and people-to-people exchanges.

In 2015, Philippine exports to China amounted to $17.64 billion, while imports stood at $6.17 billion.

China ranked as the Philippines' second largest trading partner last year. It remains the Philippines' third largest export destination and the biggest source of imports. INQ

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• New Army commander

TANDAG CITY – Col. Franco Nemesio M. Gacal was installed as the new commander of the Army's 402nd Infantry (Stingers) Brigade that is based at Camp Vicente L. Pimentel, Sr. here during turnover rites last Tuesday. The turnover of command was led by Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Madrigal, Jr., commanding general of the Northeastern and Northern Mindanao Army's 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division (4th ID), where Col. Isidro L. Purisima, the outgoing commander of the 402nd Brigade turned over the leadership to Gacal. Purisima held his previous post for a year and eight months and has been transferred to the Army's national headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, while Gacal, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1988, formerly held the position of chief of staff of the Philippine Army Commanding General of the Philippine Army Headquarters in Fort Bonifacio. (Mike U. Crismundo)

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Gen. Ricarte rites on, rain or shine

BATAC CITY, Ilocos Norte – Despite the expected landfall of Typhoon Lawin in extreme Northern Luzon, the commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of General Artemio Ricarte today, will push through at the Ricarte Parke here.

Rhiaan Gamet, a staff member of the city government of Batac, yesterday said that this year's Ricarte Day celebration is organized by the Batac City government in coordination with the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) and the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP). Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, PVAO administrator, is expected to lead the wreath-laying ceremony at the foot of Ricarte's bust with the presence of city officials, students, teachers, and residents.

Gen. Ricarte, also known as Vibora, was a general during the Philippine Revolution and the Philippine-American War.

He is regarded as the Father of the Philippine Army. Gen. Ricarte, together with, Msgr. Gregorio Aglipay and Pres. Ferdinand Marcos, hails from Batac, Ilocos Norte. (Freddie G. Lazaro)

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SAYYAF MAN CAPTURED IN SULU

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Army soldiers captured an Abu Sayyaf bandit in continuing operations in Sulu against the terrorist group tied to the Islamic State. It said soldiers from the 14th Infantry Battalion nabbed Pauji Asgari in Talipao town on Tuesday after villagers tipped off the military on the presence of Abu Sayyaf fighters in the area. Troops seized Asgari's assault rifle, ammunition and electric cords, including a Marine camouflage, cell phone and motorcycle, Brig. Gen. Arnel dela Vega, commander of anti-terror Joint Task Force Sulu, said. **AL JACINTO**

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AFP 'decimates' 130 Abu men in 3 months

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines neutralized a total of 130 Abu Sayyaf Group members on the third quarter of the year, AFP Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgardo Arevalo said yesterday.

Arevalo said from July 1, 2016 to date, a total of 102 Abu men were killed, seven arrested and 21 surrendered.

The figure includes the death of key terror suspects Mohammad Said, Jamiri Jawhari, Musanna Jamiri, and Nelson and Braun Muktadil.

Last week AFP chief of staff General Ricardo Visaya ordered his men to use all available tools of war against the ASG.

Visaya gave the order after the AFP gained significant headways in the focused military operations against the Abus in their lairs in Basilan and Sulu.

President Rodrigo Duterte, in July, directed the AFP to neutralize the bandits that prompted the AFP to launch attack and destroy missions against the Abus.

"Let us use all available tools of war in inflicting not just physical destruction but also in rendering a psychological blow against the ASG. Ensure their isolation from their local support system and make the communities resilient against the influence of terrorists," Visaya told his men.

During the operations, the AFP recovered 165 fast crafts used by the bandits in their mobility and ability to cross borders around the Zamboanga, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-tawi (ZamBaSulTa) provinces.

Visaya ordered to take advantage of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Department of Transportation that empowers the AFP to use high-speed watercrafts, confiscate unregistered sea crafts and dismantle illegally-constructed piers and wharves.

"This must be enforced not only in the ZamBaSulTa area but also throughout the country to significantly reduce enemy capabilities, further constrain their movement and deny staging areas for their atrocities," he said.

"We need to hit the ASG harder. Our goal is the total defeat of the ASG and the destruction of its cells the soonest possible time," Visaya said.

Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca

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Another Abu Sayyaf member falls

GOVERNMENT forces arrested a member of the Abu Sayyaf in Talipao town in Sulu on Tuesday morning as the military continued to press its intensified campaign against the terrorist group.

The suspect, Pauji Asgari, yielded an M16 rifle, ammunition, electric cords, combat pack, a cell phone, hammock, and a Marine uniform when accosted by troops from the Army's 41st Infantry Battalion,.

Col. Rodrigo Gregorio, spokesman of the military's Joint Task Force Sulu, said Asgari was nabbed by the operating troops at around 5 a.m. based on information provided by citizens.

"The apprehension was a result of information coming from local residents about the presence of a group of armed men in their locality," said Gregorio, adding the group has splintered from a larger group of Abu Sayyaf "to evade government troops."

The military intensified its campaign against the Abu Sayyaf last August, in line with President Duterte's promise to end the group during his term. The Abu Sayyaf has about 300 to 400 members, mostly based in Sulu.

The campaign has so far resulted in the death of scores of Abu Sayyaf men and rescue or release of a number of kidnap victims. At present, the group is still holding 12 foreign and Filipino hostages in Sulu.

"We expect more ASG to be arrested and more hostages to be rescued with the cooperation of local residents of Sulu," said Brig. Gen. Arnel dela Vega, the commander of the Sulu-based task force.

"The relentless combat operation will continue until we deal a crippling blow against the ASG bandits and until all hostages are rescued," said Dela Vega. – *Victor Reyes*

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Abu bandit falls

ZAMBOANGA CITY – An Abu Sayyaf bandit was arrested in a remote village in Talipao, Sulu on Tuesday.

Pauji Asgari yielded an M16 rifle, ammunition, Marine combat pack and uniform, a mobile phone, a hammock and a motorcycle, said Brig. Gen. Arnel dela Vega, commander of Joint Task Force Sulu.

Asgari was the seventh Abu Sayyaf bandit captured this month.

– Roel Pareño

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5 Abu Sayyaf nadakip ng militar sa Sulu

NAARESTO ng mga militar ang isang miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf group sa inilulunsad na opensiba laban sa mga bandido sa Talipao, Sulu.

Nakilala ang nadakip na suspek na si Pauji Asgari.

Nasamsam ng mga sundalo sa suspek ang M16 rifle, mga bala, electric cord, combat pack, cellphone, hammock, motorsiklo at uniform ng Marine.

Ayon kay Col. Rodrigo Gregorio, spokesman ng Joint Task Force Sulu, dakong 5:00 ng umaga nang madakip ng mga elemento ang suspek sa Talipao Sulu.

Tinutugis ng mga sundalo ang ilang armadong grupo matapos na makatanggap ng report mula sa mga residente na may ilang kalalakihan ang kahina-hinalang ang kilos.

Ang suspek ay naaresto ng mga tumutugis na sundalo nang mapahiwalay sa kanyang mga kasamahan.

Hinala naman ng mga otoridad na ang nasabing grupo ay bahagi ng ASG na tumatakas upang iwasan ang mga tumutugis na mga sundalo nang makita o mamataan ng mga residente sa nasabing lugar.

Ang suspek ay dinala sa Camp Bautista kung saan isinailalim sa masusing imbestigasyon habang inihahanda naman ang kaukulang kaso laban dito.

(Mark Obleada)

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QCPD: Drug den operator an Abu bandit

An alleged drug den operator, arrested last month, is indeed part of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group and has been using different names to hide his criminal record, the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) said yesterday.

Juraid Sahiddun, alias Sahibul Sailani and Juraid Sahibul, has a pending warrant of arrest with the regional trial court of Basilan for his involvement in the 2001 Tairan kidnapping case.

Records of the Naval Intelligence and Security Group under the operational control of Fleet Marine Ready Force through the Naval Task Group NCR confirmed that the three names were used by one person.

Sahiddun was arrested by the QCPD during a raid on the Salaam Compound in Barangay Culiat. He was caught in his house, which he supposedly used as a drug den.

He was allegedly involved in the abduction of 15 Golden Harvest coconut plantation workers in Barangay Tairan, Lantawan town in June 2001.

One of the victims identified Sahiddun as among those who kidnapped them.

– Romina Cabrera

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Drug suspect linked to Abu Sayyaf—intel

INTELLIGENCE reports have confirmed the link of an arrested drug suspect in Quezon City to the Abu Sayyaf Group, an official said Wednesday.

Sr. Supt. Guillermo Lorenzo Eleazar of the Quezon City Police District said Juraid Sahiddun, who was arrested as a maintainer of a shabu den at the Culiat Salaam compound on Sept. 16, had been using different names to hide his criminal records in Basilan.

He made his statement even as the military said 12 local and foreign hostages of the Abu Sayyaf Group were still waiting to be rescued in Sulu.

The military also said a suspected member of the Abu Sayyaf was arrested in Talipao town on Tuesday. Sahiddun, or Sahibul Sailani or Juraid Sahibul, was involved in the mass abduction of 15 Golden Harvest Coconut Plantation workers in Tairan, Lantawan, Basilan in June 2001 at the height of the Dos Palmas kidnapping incident, Eleazar said.

He said he was also involved in the series of encounters and ambuscades against pursuing military forces and the planting of several land mines in a road network in Tipo-Tipo, Basilan, to blow up armored vehicles.

He said the suspect and other members of the Abu Sayyaf were put under surveillance after they took refuge with relatives and friends in Metro Manila.

Sahibul has a standing warrant of arrest for his involvement in the Tairan abduction in 2001.

He is facing drug charges before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

On Sept. 16, authorities raided the Salaam compound that led to the arrest of 145 drug suspects including Sahiddun. **Rio N. Araja and Florante S. Solmerin**

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AFP aprub sa joint military exercise kasama ang China at Russia

WALANG nakikitang problema ang pamunuan ng Defense Department na magkaroon ng joint military exercises ang Pilipinas sa bansang China at Russia.

Ayon kay Department of National Defense (DND) Public Affairs Service Chief Arsenio Andolong, welcome sa pamahalaan lalo na sa Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ang pagkakaroon ng joint foreign army and navy training.

Ani Andolong, kung matuloy ang nasabing joint war games sa China at Russia, magkakaroon ng pagkakataon ang mga sundalong Pinoy na ma-expose sa mga makabagong teknolohiya at training.

Dagdag pa ni Andolong, hindi na bago para sa bansa ang pagkakaroon ng joint military training sa mga foreign counterparts ng AFP.

Giit ni Andolong, maraming mga bansa na mayroong joint military training sa Pilipinas at hindi lamang ang Estados Unidos.

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MANILA BULLETIN
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Martial law victims welcome SC order

By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**
and **LESLIE ANN G. AQUINO**

The Supreme Court ruling to extend its hold order on the burial of former president Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani until November 8 boosted hopes of martial law and human rights victims that the court will ultimately decide against the re-interment of the former strongman.

It was also a disappointment for hundreds of Marcos loyalists who had made their way from Ilocos Norte to Manila to drum up support for a Libingan burial.

The Marcos family had won the nod of President Duterte for the burial, which is being vigorously opposed by the Samahan ng mga Ex-detainees Laban sa Detensyon at Aresto (Selda).

The extension order was also welcomed by Ephraim Cortez, secretary general of the National Union of People's Lawyers (NUPL.)

"History has already laid down the verdict when the Filipino people – as one – decided to break free from the bondage of the Marcos dictatorship in 1986," Cortez said.

"In deciding on the issue of whether the late dictator is fit to be buried at the Libingan, the NUPL is hopeful that come November 8, the SC will stand on the side of justice, history and reason," he added.

In a statement, Selda said Marcos does not deserve a plot at the Libingan since "many of his victims remain missing, many have languished in jails and inhuman prisons, and many have not won justice until this very day."

"Our President, whose father spent some time in the Cabinet of the late dictator, wants to bury his wax remains in the Libingan ng mga Bayani as payback for his family's good fortune during martial law because of this. Recently, President Duterte announced that he will abide by the SC's ruling on the issue," Selda said.

It reiterated its position that President Marcos is not a hero and does not deserve to be buried at Libingan.

The group accused Marcos supporters of harassing its lawyers. "We don't like to make this discourse to be confusing and downright low that we restrained our forces from going to the SC and engage in a shouting match with the unruly crowd of Marcos loyalists," it said.

Selda said the Marcos family aims to seek the revision of history by burying his

remains at Libingan.

"The Marcoses would like the Filipino people to remember the dictator as a benevolent leader whose siblings will one day take the reins of power. This was evident in the last elections, when the son of the dictator ran for vice president and lost, then howled and cried that he was cheated even as all elections under the Marcos were fraudulent. We cannot permit the continuing travesty of justice by the Marcoses," it continued.

Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes shares Selda's optimism that the Supreme Court will eventually rule against a Libingan burial for Marcos.

"I have the hunch that the final decision will be a No to the burial at the (Libingan)," Bastes said in an interview.

He predicted that vote on the burial would be close, "maybe 8 No and 7 Yes."

Many had expected the court to render a decision on the issue Tuesday and not just extend its status quo ante order for the second time. The first was on August 23.

Bastes looks at the extension of the order as a "good sign."

"It's a good sign in the sense that they are seriously deliberating," he said.

He said that when the court issued its first order, he viewed it as a careful introduction to the absolute prohibition of the burial.

Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo also welcomed the extension, saying it will give the SC more time to study the matter.

The two bishops have come out against the plan to bury Marcos at Libingan, saying to do so is an "insult to the nation."

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Reds, gov't eye permanent truce

COMMUNIST rebels and the Philippine government have agreed to sign an agreement to upgrade the unilateral ceasefire currently in place to "a joint and permanent ceasefire."

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, concurrent government peace panel chair, said the two sides hope to meet again on October 26 for the signing of the agreement.

Bello said they will request the NDF and their third party facilitator, The Royal Norwegian Government, to reset the meeting "to the last week of November or the first week of December."

"There are certain commitments that we gave the NDF panel, which we are afraid we cannot comply with for the moment. So, we have to ask for more time," he said, adding that he is "not at liberty to reveal" these commitments at the moment.

Bello also reported that they have submitted the proposed General Amnesty Proclamation, and it is currently being studied by the Department of Justice, the Office of the Solicitor-General, and the Office of the Executive Secretary.

"The General Amnesty Proclamation may be signed or approved by the President any time after the signing of the final peace agreement," he said.

But, he maintained, this proclamation is not a prerequisite for the NDF to sign the bilateral ceasefire.

"The signing of the ceasefire is not tied to the General Amnesty Proclamation," he said. **EMontano**

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DUTY CALLS

FLORENCIO FIANZA

Joint military exercises

BEFORE embarking on his four-day state visit to China, President Rodrigo Duterte gave a TV interview where he said he was willing to hold joint military exercises with China and Russia.

If the President goes through with this joint military exercise, what would be the scenario?

In planning for joint military exercises, one must have a fictional enemy. But even if the enemy is imaginary, there must be some basis in fact to make the exercise as realistic as possible. Our military exercises with the US was easy. We try to prevent the invasion of one of our islands. With China and Russia, however, it would be a little difficult to imagine a fictional enemy.

Going to the nitty-gritty of planning, how are we going to blend with the Russians and Chinese who have completely different armaments, doctrines and operational concepts? This was never a problem when we were having exercises with the US.

Has the President considered this problem with his military advisers or simply thought this thing all by his lonesome self and then made the pronouncement, leaving his people to sort out the details? If this happens, it will be the complete opposite of what our military has been so used to over the past 80 or so years.

Another problem with the joint military exercises with China and Russia is that the Filipino people already have a good idea about who the aggressor is—and it is not Japan or the United States. The Filipino people already know which country has taken over part of its exclusive economic zone and banned Filipino fishermen from fishing on an area that is supposed to be ours.

Whether the nation agrees with the President's desire to move closer to China at the expense of our long-standing relationship with the United States will be a test of his power of persuasion. Right now, the nation has embraced most of the things that he has been doing. The anti-crime and corruption campaign has gained broad support from the public notwithstanding their

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Joint...

From A4

misgivings on the unabated alleged extrajudicial killings.

But the pivot to China is something that he has not expounded on much during the presidential campaign. He chose to remain quiet on this issue but now seems to be taking center stage, Secretary Perfecto Yasay once quipped that observers should not pay attention to what the President says but what he does. True enough. But these contradictory and confusing statements are not doing the country any good because it is negatively affecting the financial markets and the economy in the long run.

Even Senator Panfilo Lacson, who is not a trained economist, said the peso slide has something to do with the perception that the government is spooking the market because of its rhetoric. But the President is now in China with about 400 businessmen and scores of government officials. Let us all hope that he brings home the bacon.

* * *

What will happen to the police when this anti-drug campaign is finally declared over? In a conversation over the weekend with a fellow police retiree, I speculated on this question. Both he and I believe that the best way to solve and prevent crime is the tried-and-tested practice of good police investigation. Indeed, there is really no substitute to it.

In the war over drugs, we have attracted tremendous international attention especially from human right groups. Now, the government has invited the United Nations rapporteur for Human Rights to come to the country, go anywhere, interview anyone in order to investigate whether there really is a state-sponsored extra judicial killings. If—and this is a big

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if—it is found to be complicit in extra-judicial killings, what will happen to the reputation of the police as an organization?

Already there are examples of this. The two motorcycle-riding masked men who gunned down an anti-crime crusader turned out to be police officers. It is now estimated that there are more than 4,000 people killed for various reasons in the anti-drug war. Before this thing is over, more will die.

There are those who believe that the Police is taking shortcuts to the law-enforcement process. That it is simply killing the suspects without any due process to save themselves from the hard work of having to investigate and file cases. To these observers, this is poor police work and is certain to affect the psyche of the Police. The public cannot afford a trigger-happy police force.

Is it necessary to detoxify the whole Police and retrain them to be a force that the public can trust again? This is a daunting and scary effect of this anti-drug war. Managing a huge anti-crime campaign such as the drug war is not that easy. This is because our statistics on people who use, sell and manufacture drugs is not always reliable—although we know the problem is out there and is huge.

In order to wage this war, Police leaders will have get to the entire organization to a situation wherein certain objectives will have to be met. Otherwise, local police commanders will be relieved for non-performance. There is therefore pressure from top to bottom, and this is where the shortcuts come in. Hopefully when this is over, the Police as an organization will emerge with its perspective intact. Otherwise, it will take years to retrain, counsel and institute other programs to bring the Police back to what it should be.

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AFP, nalito sa diskarte ni Pangulong Duterte sa Tsina

NALITO raw ang Armed Forces of the Philippines dahil sa pagbabago ng defense policy ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte, sabi ni Magdalo Party List Rep. Gary Alejano.

Kumambiyo ng diskarte si Pangulong Duterte para maging mas bukas at maging malapit sa Tsina.

Mahabang panahon malapit ang relasyon ng Pilipinas sa Estados Unidos at magka-ugnay ang defense strategy ng dalawang bansa pero dahil sa pagpasok sa eksena ng Tsina, tiyak aniya na malaki ang magiging pagbabago kahit sa estratehiya ng sandatahang lakas ng Pilipinas.

Sa pagbago ng defense policy ng pangulo, tiyak ding magdudulot ito ng malituhan sa pagsasanay at edukasyon ng mga sundalo.