

More than just neighbours

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Gina Rumsfeld
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The Russia-China war games are an indication they are willing to pool resources against the U.S.

Vladimir Radyuhin

THE WEEK-LONG Russia-China joint war games that ended on Thursday have added a military dimension to the strengthening strategic relationship between the world's largest and the world's most populous nations.

Code-named "Peace Mission-2005" the first-ever joint military exercise by the two armed forces has far exceeded its official anti-terrorist scenario.

Over 9,000 Chinese troops and 1,800 elite Russian soldiers staged a mock airborne attack on a coastline captured by "rebels," as long-range bombers and fighters fired missiles at enemy forces at sea and on shore, and surface warships and submarines tracked down and destroyed an enemy submarine.

Western media and analysts interpreted the war games as above all a warning to Taiwan not to declare *de jure* independence. In fact, the exercises had far broader implications.

Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov, who watched the manoeuvres jointly with his Chinese counterpart Cao Gangchuan, said the China-Russia "strategic cooperative partnership" had entered a new stage and was emerging as "a guarantee of security in the Asia-Pacific region."

Mr. Ivanov's routine reassurance that Russia and China were not going to set up "any military blocs," did little to dispel the impression that the two countries were ready to pool their military strengths to jointly challenge the U.S. domination of the region.

Strategic cooperation

The unprecedented military manoeuvres demonstrated the new thrust of the two countries' strategic cooperation to stop the U.S. push for control over energy-rich Central Asia and the Caspian.

Following the U.S.-sponsored "tulip revolution" in Kyrgyzstan in March and the foiled Opposition uprising in Uzbekistan in May, Russia and China joined hands to stop the U.S. push into the region.

Meeting in Moscow in early July, Presidents Vladimir Putin and Hu Jintao issued a 21st Century World Order Declaration denouncing attempts to "ignore objective processes of social development of sovereign states and impose

on them alien models of social and political systems."

Three days later the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation led by Russia and China asked the U.S. to set a deadline for its military presence in Central Asia. In a follow-up, Uzbekistan demanded the withdrawal of a U.S. airbase from its territory within 180 days. U.S. Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld rushed to the region to persuade Kyrgyzstan to drop its demand for the pullout of a U.S. airbase in that country in exchange for more economic aid. He also won reassurances from Tajikistan for continued use of its military facilities by the U.S.-led coalition forces in Afghanistan.

Earlier this week the head of the U.S. military's Central Command, General John Abizaid, held talks in Turkmenistan on "the security situation and partnership of the United States with regional countries." The visit came amid reports that Washington was seeking to open an air base in Turkmenistan to compensate for loss of the base in Uzbekistan, and to draw

Turkmenistan into the "Caspian Guardian," a Washington project to deploy American forces in the Caspian region under the pretext of protecting oil and gas pipelines.

Russia and China have responded with plans to give a military dimension to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

Summing up the results of the Russian-Chinese war games, a high-placed Russian military source said that similar military manoeuvres might be conducted next year by SCO member-states.

"Even though SCO is a strictly political organisation, it has a military component, whose role will steadily rise," the source said.

Russia's General Staff chief Yury Baluevsky did not rule out that the Russian and Chinese militaries "may be tasked by SCO to carry out some or other missions in the region."

Intriguingly, Russia is inviting India, which last month was granted observer status in the SCO along with Iran and Pakistan, to join the planned SCO military drills. "It would not be bad if such countries as Russia, India, and China staged joint military exercises," the Russian military source was quoted as telling Russian news agencies on Friday.

20 AUG 2006 THE HINDU

China, Russia wrap up military exercise

China Daily/ANN

BEIJING, Aug. 25. — Thousands of Chinese and Russian troops wrapped up their historic first joint military exercises today with a mock invasion by paratroopers on China's east coast.

A Chinese fighter plane fired at ground targets in an amphibious landing drill during the third phase of the Sino-Russian "Peace Mission 2005" joint military exercise, held in China's Shandong Peninsula. Today, Chinese and Russian paratroopers simulated the seizure of an airfield as planes dropped combat vehicles by parachute, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Propaganda leaflets fell from the sky in "a psychological tactic to shake the enemy's will," according to Xinhua. "The exercise ended with the defeat of the 'enemy,'" the agency said. Russia's Interfax news agency portrayed the oper-



A Chinese fighter plane fires at ground targets in an amphibious landing drill during the third phase of the Sino-Russian Peace Mission 2005, a joint military exercise, held in China's Shandong Peninsula. — China Daily/ANN

ation as a success, saying Russian planes landed 10 combat vehicles and two armoured personnel carriers by parachute in high winds. Earlier drills included a mock amphibious assault and a sea battle.

The exercise, dubbed "Peace Mission 2005," was inaugurated last week in the Russian port of

Vladivostok and shifted on Saturday to China. Ties between the two governments have warmed since the Soviet collapse in the early 1990s.

China has become the biggest foreign buyer of Russian arms and looks to Russia as a source of oil and gas for its booming economy.

26 AUG 2005

THE STATESMAN

Russia, China launch wargames

AGENCE France-Presse
Vladivostok, Russia

RUSSIA AND China launched their first-ever joint wargames in a show of military might they insisted was not aimed at any other country after the United States expressed concern.

Washington, which has indicated unease over the pace of China's military build-up, is not attending as an observer but said it is closely monitoring the drills, warning they should not undermine regional stability.

The week-long exercises involving 10,000 troops, naval ships, bombers and fighter planes began in the Russian city of Vladivostok and will later move to the Yellow Sea and the area off the Jiaodong peninsula in eastern China.

Chinese defence officials said they would focus on the ability of Russian and

Chinese forces to fight separatism and terrorism, while strengthening mutual trust between two of the world's major powers.

"The exercise will be carried out in the framework of the fight against international terrorism and extremism, to respond to new threats and challenges," said Liang Guanglie, Chief-of-Staff of China's armed forces.

China faces challenges from separatists in its Muslim-populated Xinjiang region in the northwest, and Russia from Muslim separatists in Chechnya.

"This first joint military exercise in (our) history ... does not threaten the interests of other countries," Russian Chief-of-Staff Yury Baluyevsky said.

Under the scenario of the exercises, a fictive state torn by massive ethnic unrest has asked the United Nations and neighbouring countries to assist in restoring order, Russian officials said.

Chinese and Russian troops under UN mandate are sent to separate the combatants and quell the unrest.

Defence ministers from countries in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, which groups several Central Asian countries besides China and Russia, have been invited to watch, China's Xinhua news agency said.

Leading military officials from Iran, India and Pakistan are also on hand, the state-run agency quoted Russian diplomats as saying.

The drills, known as 'Peace Mission 2005', started with political and military consultations between Russian and Chinese military delegations, headed by each country's Chief-of-Staff, a Russian Pacific fleet spokesman said. Xinhua said battle planning, transportation and deployment of troops and combat practice would be the thrust of the mission.

10 AUG 2005 THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Hu, Putin to sign world order declaration

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S. P. Harris

MOSCOW: Chinese President Hu Jintao on Thursday arrived in Russia on a four-day official visit on the invitation of President Vladimir Putin, scheduled for June 30-July 3.

After their talks on Friday in the Kremlin, Mr. Hu and Mr. Putin will sign a joint declaration on the world order in the 21st century, a Kremlin spokesman said.

"This is an important document, which shows the common, fundamental views of Russia and China on key issues of the mod-

ern world order and reflects their common vision of the development of humanity," the spokesman stressed.

"Just, balanced world"

He added that the declaration would reaffirm the commitment of the two countries to promote the emergence of a just and balanced world order based on the supremacy of international law, multilateral approaches, equality, mutual respect and an increased role of United Nations in world affairs. "Russia and China

will declare in one voice that claiming a monopoly in global affairs, dividing countries into those who lead and those who are led, imposing public development models on countries and using double standards are unacceptable," he said.

He said that the declaration will make a significant appeal to the world community to make joint efforts to "create a new security architecture and adopt a global strategy" under the aegis of the U.N. for countering new challenges and threats. — UNI

"Step up relations between China, Russia"

BEIJING: Chinese top legislator Wu Bangguo said on Friday that China and Russia should further enhance exchange and cooperation between Parliaments and parties. Mr. Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks during the meeting with Vladimir Zhirinovsky, vice-chairmen of Russia's State Duma and chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party.

Sino-Russian relations has entered a new stage featuring comprehensive development. The two countries enhance political mutual-trust, expanded cooperation in trade and economy, science and technology, culture and military sectors, Mr. Wu said. China and Russia supported each other on key issues concerning sovereignty and territorial integrity and carried out fruitful cooperation on major regional and international issues, he said.

Promoted by the two countries' state leaders, the Sino-Russian strategic partnership was enriched and developed, Mr. Wu noted. Mr. Wu applauded exchange and cooperation between Chinese and Russian parties and Parliaments. CPC will carry out more good-will exchange with Russian major parties including the Liberal Democratic Party and the NPC will consolidate and develop relations with the State Duma and Federation Council, Upper House of Russian Parliament, he said.

Mr. Zhirinovsky hailed Russia-China relations, saying to maintain long-lasting and stable friendly cooperation with China is in the interest of the two peoples and will benefit world stability and development. — Xinhua

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09 JUL 2005

THE HILL

Hu's Russia visit fruitful: China

Two sides to strengthen cooperation in strategic, economic and international affairs

BEIJING: Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to Russia is "fruitful", said Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao here on Tuesday.

Mr. Hu paid a state visit to Russia from June 30 to July 3 at the invitation of his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin. Mr. Liu briefed a regular press conference on the general situation of Mr. Hu's Russia tour.

During this visit, the two sides issued a joint statement on a new world order in the 21st century and a joint communique, signed some documents on cooperation in finance, energy and electric power, and decided to hold the Russia year in China in 2006 and the China year in Russia in 2007.

"This fruitful visit is conducive for both sides to deepening political trust, to strengthening strategic cooperation, to increasing economic and trade cooperation, to enhancing coordination in international and regional affairs, to further

promoting the development of China-Russia strategic partnership of cooperation," said Mr. Liu.

As to the energy cooperation, the two sides agreed that it is of great importance to enforce bilateral cooperation in the energy field. They decided to further implement the cooperation projects in the fields of oil and natural gas, including the construction of an oil pipeline and joint exploitation of oil fields in both countries.

Six-party talks

The cooperation agreements on oil, natural gas and electric power signed at the summit marked a new step in energy cooperation between the two countries, the communique said.

According to the agreement reached by the two leaders, before finishing the construction of the oil pipeline, the Russian side promised to provide China with crude oil, transported through railway, of 10 million

• Russia to provide China 10 million tonnes of oil

• Construction of pipeline under consideration

• Joint statement on new world order issued

• Optimism on resuming six-party talks

tonnes this year and 15 million next year.

On the issue of six-party talks, Mr. Liu said no timetable is expected for restarting it, but all relevant parties are still working for resuming the peace talks. He said China welcomes the recent contact by the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in New York when the two parties attended an academic conference on northeast Asian security.

"The contact is helpful to promote understanding between the United States and DPRK,"

Mr. Liu said.

"We hope all relevant parties, especially the United States and DPRK, can increase contacts, release more positive signals, sincerely push the peace talks process in a flexible, constructive and pragmatic way, so as to create a favourable condition for resuming talks at an early date".

The academic conference, held between June 30 and July 1, was co-hosted by the National Committee on American Foreign Policy and the DPRK Institute of Disarmament and Peace.

The officials discussed the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula during the meeting, which, according to a press release at the end of the meeting, was the third such conference co-hosted by the two organisations.

Conference participants agreed that discussions were frank and constructive and they are optimistic that the DPRK will return to the six-party talks. — Xinhua

06 JUL 2005

Russia, China launch security consultations

By Vladimir Radvukhin

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MOSCOW, FEB. 3. Russia and China have launched regular security consultations to further cement their strategic partnership.

The visiting member of China's State Council, Tang Jiaxuan, held the first security consultations with the head of the Russian Security Council, Igor Ivanov, before calling on the Russian President, Vladimir Putin.

"We decided to establish such a mechanism with Russia because we have close positions regarding the international situation, key international and regional issues, as well as issues related to maintaining peace and helping global development," Mr. Tang told the Russian leader.

He called Russia China's "main partner for strategic cooperation" and said it was for "the first time ever that China is establishing a mechanism of national security consultations with another country."

For his part, Mr. Putin said, "political-level consultations on security issues will be fundamental for (Russia-China) relations in this sphere."

Significantly, the Russian-Chinese security consultations were launched less than a month after India and China held their first security dialogue, following which the External Affairs Minister, K. Natwar Singh, said India, Russia and China were likely to interact increasingly in a variety of ways in the coming years.

THE HINDU

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