THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

JUN 8 2001

Honorable Bob Stump
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6035

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Pursuant to Section 1201(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000, Public Law 106-65, I have attached a report on military-to-military exchanges with the People's Liberation Army. This report covers the calendar year 2000 military-to-military program as conducted by the Clinton Administration.

The calendar year 2001 program of military-to-military exchanges is under review at the direction of the Secretary of Defense. We, therefore, do not have a schedule of activities for this year. Until this review is complete, we will conduct military exchanges with the People's Liberation Army selectively and on a case-by-case basis.

The overriding objective in our military exchange program is to ensure that these exchanges benefit the United States. That is the principle by which future such exchanges must be evaluated.

Sincerely,

Paul Wolfowitz

Attachment:
As stated

cc:
Honorable Ike Skelton, Ranking Minority Member

MILITARY-TO-MILITARY EXCHANGES WITH THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY

Summary. The engagement program for calendar year 2000 focused on attempting to foster an environment conducive to frank, open discussion. PRC and U.S. delegations conducted several exchanges that complemented the broader efforts to engage the PRC. They were also meant to reduce the likelihood of miscalculation regarding cross-strait issues. As part of the on-going review of 2001 military-to-military exchanges, the Department of Defense will be examining whether the program should be reshaped and refocused in order to better achieve objectives.

Specific Events

A. Defense Policy Visits

(1) Defense Consultative Talks in Washington, 24 - 26 January.

(2) U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs visit to China, 13 - 14 June.

(3) U.S. Secretary of Defense visit to China, 11 - 15 July.

(4) Defense Consultative Talks in China, 28 November - 2 December.

B. High Level Visits

(1) U.S. Commander-in-Chief Pacific Command visit to China, 27 February - 2 March.

(2) PLA Navy Commander visit to the U.S., 14 - 22 April.

(3) PLA Nanjing Military Region Commander visit to the U.S., 18 - 23 June.

(4) U.S. Secretary of the Navy visit to China, 12 - 13 October.

(5) PLA Central Military Commission Member / Director of the General Political Department visit to the U.S., 24 October - 4 November.

(6) U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff visit to China, 2 - 6 November.

C. Professional Visits

(1) U.S. National Defense University (NDU) CAPSTONE visit to China, 20 - 22 February.

(2) U.S. Air War College visit to China, 27 February - 8 March.

(3) U.S. NDU Regional Studies Seminar visit to China, 6 - 16 May.

(4) U.S. Military Academy (USMA) Superintendent visit to China, 13 - 21 June.

(5) PLA Medical Department visit to the U.S., 23 July - 4 August.

(6) U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander-in-Chief visit to China in conjunction with a ship visit, 31 July - 5 August.

(7) U.S. NDU senior officer course (CAPSTONE) visit to Beijing, 16 - 18 August.

(8) PLA Academy of Military Science (AMS) President visit to the U.S., 21 August - 2 September.

(9) PLA Naval Command College - Nanjing Commandant visit to the U.S., 2 - 11 November.

(10) PLA NDU CAPSTONE visit to the U.S., 12 – 19 November.

(11) U.S. NDU Faculty Exchange visit to China, 1 - 7 December.

D. Confidence Building Measures

(1) Military Maritime Consultative Agreement Working Group #1 meeting in China, 27 - 29 March.

(2) Military Maritime Consultative Agreement Plenary Session in the U.S., 28 May - 3 June.

(3) U.S. NDU - PLA NDU coordination meeting in China, 17 June.

(4) U.S. Navy ship visit to Qingdao, China, 2 - 5 August.

(5) PLA Navy ship visit to the U.S., 5 - 8 September in Hawaii and 14 - 18 September in Seattle.

(6) PLA participation in the Humanitarian Affairs Disaster Relief Sandtable Planning team visit to the U.S., 10 - 18 October.

(7) Military Maritime Consultative Agreement Working Group #2 meeting in China, 3 - 9 December.

E. Multinational Fora

(1) Asia-Pacific Military Medicine Conference in Singapore, 7 - 12 May.

(2) Pacific Armies Management Seminar in Japan, 5 – 10 September.

(3) Pacific Area Senior Officers Logistics Seminar in the Philippines, 25 - 29 September.

(4) Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies Executive Course in the U.S., 2 October - 15 December.

(5) PLA NDU International Issues Symposium in China, 8 - 31 October.

(6) Western Pacific Naval Symposium in New Zealand, 8 - 11 November.

Topics Discussed and Questions Asked

A. Global Issues

(1) As permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, the United States and China both have global responsibilities. As such, global topics were extensively discussed. One of these issues was weapons proliferation. The Chinese asked many questions regarding the U.S. position and U.S. arms exports.

(2) International crime was another topic of discussion. The United States is a major destination for drug shipments and China is a major transit route. Likewise, China is home to some organized crime syndicates that engage in a number of activities including the trafficking of persons. Questions ranged from the very conceptual such as how we define the "rule of law" to more specifics concerning areas where greater cooperation will yield mutual benefits.

(3) The World Trade Organization was an especially relevant topic since China is attempting to join that organization. Many questions were directed at the process for attaining Permanent Normal Trade Relations status from the United States.

(4) Ongoing United Nations operations in Kosovo received a high degree of scrutiny. Chinese opposition to operations there meant that they had many questions regarding U.S. justification for actions in Kosovo. They also sought repeatedly for explanations into the mistaken bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade.

B. Regional Issues

(1) Both China and the United States are regional powers in the Asia-Pacific region and have many overlapping interests there. The Korean Peninsula is one of the areas where we have important overlapping interests. The majority of Chinese questions concerned U.S. policy toward the Korean Peninsula.

(2) Closely related to the situation on the Korean Peninsula is the U.S. relationship with Japan. The Chinese asked questions about the nature of the U.S. - Japan alliance and its limits. They were also interested in the extent of U.S.-Japan cooperation on development and potential deployment of theater missile defenses.

(3) The issue of Taiwan plays prominently in any Sino-U.S. discussion. The Chinese continuously asked the United States to reaffirm its stance on the "one China" policy and stated their opposition to arms sales to Taiwan.

(4) Competing territorial claims in the South China Sea, particularly the Spratly Islands is a contentious issue in the region. In addressing the disputed territory, many questions were raised regarding conflict avoidance and freedom of navigation.

(5) The increasing frequency of international responses to humanitarian disasters was also discussed. Specific questions concerned possible scenarios, each individual country's ability to handle certain situations and the mechanisms by which help could be rendered. China's role in dealing with conflict in East Timor was most often the vehicle for such questioning.

C. Bilateral Security Issues

(1) The possible development of a U.S. National Missile Defense and Theater Missile Defense capability are of great concern to the Chinese. They have asked the U.S. to explain its intentions regarding the possible deployment of any such systems.

(2) Military-to-Military relations are an important part of both nations' overall foreign policy. Questions in this area concerned objectives for continued military interaction, including specific events and procedures for implementing military exchanges.

(3) Reciprocal ship visits as confidence building measures are a key component of our military-to-military relationship. During these events, enlisted members and officers of each other's navies are given the chance to interact. The topics discussed concerned each other's ships and life at sea.

(4) Both nations continue to update and modernize their militaries. This topic has many facets and, accordingly, was discussed in many different ways. The Chinese inquired about the fielding of new weapon systems, Army Transformation, and our future Joint Vision.

D. Professional Topics

(1) Professional military education is an important element in the PLA's continuing development. PLA counterparts asked about officer development in a civilian controlled military, and education and accession alternatives via the military academy system and civilian-based academic institutions.

(2) Health affairs is another area of specific interest. The spread of infectious diseases is a serious concern; thus exchanges and questions centered on preventive medicine.

(3) Environmental degradation is an issue of mutual concern. The areas of discussion concerned ways that the two sides could cooperate to address the military's role and responsibilities in this area.

(4) Personnel management is one area where the Chinese are attempting to transition into a more professional military. Questions involved areas such as officer recruitment through ROTC, competitive compensation, and the integration of women into the military.

(5) Discussions in the area of training management centered on how upper level headquarters interact with subordinate offices in the planning, management, supervision, and administration of training programs.

(6) The PLA is attempting to transform its legal system to more closely resemble a western model. Our exchanges in the area of military law covered the tenets of western legal thought, the specifics of how to implement the "rule of law," and the balance between the protection of individual rights and the needs of the larger society.

(7) Doctrinal development was another area of discussion. In this area the Chinese asked how we develop doctrine, and the discussions covered the organizations and structures involved in that process.