

Taiwan rejects China's claims over Taiwan Strait

Written by Taipei Times

Wednesday, 15 June 2022 04:43 -



Service personnel from the navy's first minelaying squadron are pictured in an undated photograph during training at Kaohsiung's Zuoying naval base.

Photo courtesy of the Military News Agency

China's sovereignty claim over the Taiwan Strait is false, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said yesterday, adding that the only waters a country has full sovereignty over are the 12 nautical miles (22km) around its territory.

Ministry spokeswoman Joanne Ou (歐江娜) reiterated that the government considers the Taiwan Strait to be international waters, except for the 12-nautical-mile strip defined as territorial waters.

"Our government has always respected any activity conducted by foreign vessels in the Taiwan Strait that is allowed under international law," she said, including US vessels passing through.

"We understand and support the freedom of navigation operations conducted by the US, as these operations promote peace and stability in the region," she said.

Ou accused Beijing of "distorting international law" in ignoring Taipei's 12-nautical-mile sovereignty claim in the Taiwan Strait, and said that by downgrading the Strait to its own exclusive economic zone (EEZ), China "revealed its ambition to annex Taiwan."

Taiwan would continue to work with like-minded countries to uphold a rules-based international order, and promote peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region, she added.

On Monday, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Wang Wenbin (王文斌) said that Beijing had sovereign and administrative rights to the Taiwan Strait, and denied US claims that the channel should be treated as international waters.

Taiwan rejects China's claims over Taiwan Strait

Written by Taipei Times

Wednesday, 15 June 2022 04:43 -

Wang claimed that the waterway fell within China's territorial waters and EEZ as defined by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and domestic law.

"China enjoys sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the Taiwan Strait, while respecting the legitimate rights of other countries in the relevant maritime areas," Wang said in Beijing. "There is no such thing as 'international waters' in UNCLOS. By claiming that the Taiwan Strait is international waters, some countries intend to create an excuse for its manipulation of the Taiwan issue, and threaten China's sovereignty and security."

UNCLOS states that countries can claim waters within 12 nautical miles of their coastline as territorial seas, where they have full sovereignty.

They can also claim the waters within 200 nautical miles of their coastline as an EEZ, where they have a sovereign right to the water column, sea floor and resources, but other countries still have the right to sail through or fly over the waters.

Most of the Taiwan Strait is less than 200 nautical miles wide, resulting in overlapping EEZ claims by Taiwan and China in the waterway.

Although UNCLOS does not define "international waters," it does define "high seas" as referring to waters that are beyond the territorial sea or to areas outside EEZs that do not belong to any state's jurisdiction.

The Democratic Progressive Party yesterday issued a news release condemning the Chinese statements as baseless and attempting to unilaterally upset the "status quo."

The Chinese statement is a declaration of its expansionist ambitions, attempting to contravene Taiwan's sovereignty, disrupt the international maritime order, and disrupt regional peace and stability, it said.

Taiwan rejects China's claims over Taiwan Strait

Written by Taipei Times

Wednesday, 15 June 2022 04:43 -

China should not live in its own world and push a baseless claim, the party said, calling for the Chinese Communist Party to halt its actions before it causes irreparable harm.

US-based China affairs analyst Ian Easton told the Central News Agency that the Chinese government and military are "increasing their long-term campaign of coercion against Taiwan, and they plan to be even more provocative in the future."

"In my view, it is time for the US to step up and do more to support regional security. A US Navy ship visit to Taiwan, public visits from high-level American officials and bilateral US-Taiwan defense drills are all long overdue," he wrote in an e-mail.

Additional reporting by Chen Yun

Source: [Taipei Times - 2022/06/15](#)