China’s National Defense in 2000

Recommended Citation


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Information Office of the
State Council of the People’s
Republic of China
October 2000, Beijing

Foreword
The turn of the century has opened a new chapter in the development of human society. When we look back on the twentieth century we notice that mankind created enormous material and spiritual wealth never seen before. We also experienced two world wars, hundreds of local wars and the Cold War that lasted for nearly half a century, suffering tremendously from the scourge of wars or the menace of wars. The Chinese nation has gone through many hardships. The Chinese people have fought bravely for their national independence, liberation, democracy and freedom. They have finally brought the country onto the road toward modernization. The Chinese people know full well the value of peace. Humanity is facing a rare chance for development as well as tough challenges in the new century. To safeguard world peace and promote the development of all are the themes of the times and the common aspirations of people all over the world. China is engaged wholeheartedly in its modernization drive. A peaceful international environment and a favorable surrounding environment serve China’s fundamental interests. China steadfastly follows an independent foreign policy of peace and is committed to a new world of peace, stability, prosperity and development. China firmly pursues a defensive national defense policy and is determined to safeguard its state sovereignty, national unity, territorial integrity and security. The Chinese people are ready to work together with other peace-loving people of the world and contribute their wisdom and strength to world peace and development, and a more beautiful future for mankind.

At this important point in history – the turn of the century – we publish this white paper, China’s National Defense in 2000, to express the Chinese people’s sincere aspirations for peace and to help the rest of the world better understand China’s national defense policy and its efforts for the modernization of its national defense.

I. The Security Situation
Peace and development remain the two major themes in today's world. The trend toward multipolarity and economic globalization is gaining momentum, and the international security situation, in general, continues to tend toward relaxation. Relations among big powers are basically stable, with many interwoven contradictions and frictions. However, drawing on each other's strength, cooperating with and checking and constraining each other remain a basic feature of their relationship. The vast number of developing countries, with great potential for growth, are an important force in promoting the establishment of a fair and reasonable new international order, and in stabilizing world peace and development. Science and technology are making progress with each passing day, and economic ties between countries have become ever stronger. Economic development, scientific and technological innovation, and the growth of aggregate national strength remain the priorities for many countries. Worldwide, the forces for peace are prevailing over the forces for war. A new world war will not break out for a fairly long time to come. The security situation in the Asia-Pacific region has been on the whole stable. Many Asian countries, particularly the East Asian countries, have tied over the financial crisis and their economies are steadily recovering with bright prospects. It is the policy options of most countries to rejuvenate their economies, and enhance dialogue and cooperation. They will continue to develop state-to-state relations in accordance with such principles as sovereign equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. A number of countries have consistently stood for peaceful settlement of disputes, and engaged themselves in security dialogue in a variety of forms, at different levels and through different channels. All this has helped enhance mutual understanding and trust. The cooperation among ASEAN, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (10+3) is steadily developing in the economic and financial field. The tense situation on the Korean Peninsula is markedly easing off. China and Viet Nam have signed a land border treaty. The situation in the South China Sea remains generally stable. However, in today's world, factors that may cause instability and uncertainty have markedly increased. The world is far from peaceful. There is a serious disequilibrium in the relative strength of countries. No fundamental change has been made in the cold war and irrational international political and economic order. Governments and power politics still exist and are developing further in the international political, economic and security spheres. Certain big powers are pursuing "neo-interventionism," "neo-gunboat policy" and neo-economic colonialism, which are seriously damaging the sovereignty, inde-pendent rights and development interests of many countries, and threatening world peace and security. The United Nations' authority and role in handling international and regional security affairs are being seriously challenged. Under the pretenses of "humanitarianism" and "human rights," some countries have frequently resorted to the use or threat of force, in flagrant violation of the UN Charter, in an internationally recognized principles governing international relations. In particular, the NATO, by-passing the UN Security Council, launched military attacks against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, producing an extremely negative impact on the international situation and relations between countries. A series of negative developments have occurred in the area of arms control and disarmament. In particular, a certain country is still continuing its efforts to develop and introduce the National Missile Defense (NMD) and Theater Missile Defense (TMD) systems, which have undermined the international community's efforts to stem the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to promote disarmament. As modern science and technology and economic globalization continue to develop, competition among countries has become fiercer than ever before. Financial and economic risks are increasing, and economic security has become a concern for all countries. As the gap in development and the disparity between rich and poor countries continue to grow, local wars and armed conflicts have increased again, with conflicts and turbulence caused by ethnic, religious, territorial, resources or other factors cropping up one after the other. Some countries have continued to enlarge military blocs, strengthen military alliances and seek greater military superiority. This has seriously affected world security and stability. Divisive, terrorist and extremist forces of every description have continued to endanger the international community, and global problems such as the environment, narcotic drugs and refugees have become increasingly prominent. There are new negative developments in the security of the Asia-Pacific region. The United States is further strengthening its military presence and bilateral military alliances in this region, advancing the development of the TMD system and planning to deploy it in East Asia. Japan has passed a bill relating to measures in the event of a situation in the areas surrounding Japan and the Philippines. In the face of the tide of times, joint military exercises have increased in the region, to the detriment of trust between countries. The uncertain factors affecting security on the Korean Peninsula continue to exist, and the situation in South Asia remains unstable. Encroachments on China's sovereignty and interests in the South China Sea are not infrequent, and some extra-regional countries are attempting to interfere in this issue. The Taiwan Straits situation is complicated and grim. Lee Teng-hui flagrantly dished out his "two states" theory in an attempt to split the country. The new leaders of the Taiwan authorities have adopted an evasive and obscure attitude to the one-China principle. Separatist forces in Taiwan are scheming to split the island province from China, in one form or another. This has seriously undermined the preconditions and foundation for peaceful reunification across the Straits. This is the root cause of tension across the Taiwan Straits. The United States has never stopped selling advanced weapons to Taiwan. Some people in the United States have been trying hard to get the Congress to pass the so-called Taiwan Security Enhancement Act. And some are even attempting to incorporate Taiwan into the US TMD system. The newly revised Guidelines for US-Japan Defense Cooperation has failed to explicitly undertake to exclude Taiwan from the scope of "the areas surrounding Japan." This referred to in the Japanese security bill that could involve military intervention. These actions have inflated the arrogance of the separatist forces in Taiwan, seriously undermined China's sovereignty and security and imperiled the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region. The world is undergoing profound changes which require the discard of the Cold War mentality and the development of a new security concept and a new international political, economic and security order responsive to the needs of our times. The core of the new security concept should be mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation. The UN Charter, the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and other universally recognized principles governing international relations should serve as the political basis for safeguarding peace while mutually beneficial cooperation and common prosperity its economic guarantee. To conduct dialogue, consultation and negotiation on an equal footing is the right way to solve disputes and safeguard peace. Only by developing a new security concept and establishing a fair and reasonable new international order can world peace and security be fundamentally guaranteed. China's fundamental interests lie in its domestic development and stability, the peace and prosperity of its surrounding regions, and the establishment and maintenance of a new regional security order based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. China will continue to develop friendly relations and cooperation with all other countries. It will make unswerving efforts to safeguard and promote the peace, stability, prosperity and development of the Asia-Pacific region in particular and the world in general.
II. National Defense Policy
China pursues a national defense policy that is defensive in nature. The Constitution of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and the National Defense Law of the PRC, which is enacted in accordance with the Constitution, specify the tasks of the armed forces of the PRC as being absolutely determined, confident, able and equipped to safeguard state sovereignty and territorial integrity, and will never tolerate, condone or remain indifferent to the realization of any threat to the national defense, resist aggression, defend the motherland, safeguard the people’s peaceful labor, participate in national construction and serve the people wholeheartedly. China has always attached primary importance to safeguarding state sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and state security, and has been working hard for a peaceful international and a favorable peripheral environment for China’s socialist modernization drive. The development and powerfulness of China will constitute no threat to anyone, but will rather promote the world peace, stability and development. Never to be subdued by any force of any kind or any political force, the Chinese people’s solemn pledge to the world.

China’s defense policy has the following main aspects:

- Consolidating national defense, resisting aggression, curbing armed subversion, and defending state sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and security. China’s efforts in defense are purely for self-defense. China spares no effort to avoid and curb war, and to solve international disputes and questions left over by history through peaceful means. However, in view of the fact that hegemonism and power politics still exist and are further developing, and in particular, the basis for the country’s peaceful reunification is seriously imperiled, China will have to enhance its capability to defend its sovereignty and security by military means.

- Building and consolidating national defense independently and through self-reliance. China stresses self-reliance as the basis for safeguarding state security, and is on making national state security and independent policies and development strategies independently. China does not seek alliance with any country or bloc of countries, nor does it participate in any military bloc.

- Implementing the military strategy of active defense. Strategically, China pursues a principle featuring defensive operations, self-defense and gaining mastery by striking only after the enemy has struck. Such defense combines efforts to deter war with preparations to win self-defense wars in time of peace, and strategic defense with operational and tactical offensive operations in time of war. While basing themselves on existing weaponry and carrying forward their fine traditions, China’s armed forces seek to adapt to profound changes in the world’s military sphere, and prepare for defensive operations under modern, especially high-tech, conditions.

- Building a lean and strong military force the Chinese way. In line with the general requirements of being qualified politically, competent militarily, and having a fine work style, a strong sense of discipline and a strong spirit of cooperation and support, the Chinese armed forces strive to adapt to social and economic development and form a revolutionized, modernized and regularized people’s army with Chinese characteristics. China adheres to building the armed forces by enhancing their quality, strengthening the armed forces by relying on science and technology, and managing the armed forces by relying on scientific laws, and is endeavoring to transform its armed forces from a numerically superior to a qualitatively superior type, and from a manpower-intensive to a technology-intensive type, as well as to train high-quality military personnel and improve the modernization level of weaponry in order to comprehensively enhance the armed forces’ combat effectiveness.

- Combining the armed forces with the people and practicing self-defense by the whole people. China adheres to the principle of combining people’s war under modern conditions, and exercises the combination of a streamlined standing army with a powerful reserve force for national defense. The reserve force and militia are maintained at an appropriate scale, with an optimized structure and an enhanced level of training. In the light of the principle of combining peace in the footing with wartime footing and the army with the people, and having reserve soldiers among the people, China works hard to popularize and promote defense education, perfect the defense mobilization system and enhance the defense mobilization capacity.

- Subordinating national defense to, and placing it in the service of, the nation’s overall economic construction, and achieving their coordinated development. Developing the economy and strengthening national defense are two strategic tasks in China’s modernization efforts. The Chinese government insists that economic development be taken as the center, while defense work be subordinate to and in the service of the nation’s overall economic construction. Meanwhile, along with economic development, the state strives to enhance its national defense strength, to effectively support the armed forces in their efforts to improve their quality and to form a mechanism which enables national defense and economic development to promote each other and develop in harmony.

- Safeguarding world peace, and opposing aggression and expansion. China resolutely opposes hegemonism and power politics, and combats the policies of war, aggression and expansion. China also objects to any country imposing in any form its own political system and ideology on other countries. China does not seek military expansion, nor does it station troops or set up military bases in any foreign country.

- Promoting peaceful development. China opposes arms race, and supports the international community in its efforts to promote world and regional peace, security and stability.

China possesses a small number of nuclear weapons entirely for self-defense. China undertakes not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states. China does not participate in any nuclear arms race, and never deploys any nuclear weapons beyond its borders. China maintains a small but effective nuclear counteraffirming force in order to deter possible nuclear attacks by other countries. Any such attack will inevitably result in a retaliatory nuclear counterstrike by China. China has always kept the number of its nuclear weapons at a low level. The scale, composition and development of China’s nuclear force are in line with China’s national defense strategy of active defense. China’s nuclear force is under the direct command of the Central Military Commission (CMC). China is extremely cautious and responsible in the management of its nuclear weapons, and has established strict rules and regulations and taken effective measures to ensure the safety and security of its nuclear weapons.

Settlement of the Taiwan issue and realization of the complete reunification of China embodies the fundamental interests of the Chinese nation. The Chinese government upholds the basic principle of “peaceful reunification, and one country, two systems” for settling the Taiwan issue, carrying forward the eight propositions on the development of relations between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits and the promotion of the peaceful reunification of China. The Chinese government has consistently adhered to the one-China principle and will never give in or compromise on the fundamental issues concerning state sovereignty and territorial integrity. The change of the Taiwan regional leaders can also not change the fact that Taiwan is a part of Chinese territory. Settlement of the Taiwan issue is entirely an internal affair of China. The Chinese government firmly opposes any country selling arms to Taiwan, or entering into military alliances in any form with Taiwan, as well as any form of interference in any way. The Chinese government will do its utmost to achieve peaceful reunification, and advocates settling differences through dialogues and negotiations on the basis of the one-China principle. However, if a grave event of events occurs leading to the separation of Taiwan from China in any form, if Taiwan is invaded and occupied by foreign forces or if the Taiwanese nation refuses, sines die, the peaceful settlement of cross-Straits reunification through negotiations, then the Chinese government will have no choice but to adopt all drastic measures possible, including the use of force, to safeguard China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, and achieve the country’s peaceful reunification. The “Taiwan independence” means provoking war again, and fomenting splits means relinquishing peace across the Straits. The Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) unswervingly takes the will of the state as its supreme will and the national interests as its supreme interests. It has the absolute determination, confidence, ability and means to safeguard state sovereignty and territorial integrity, and will never tolerate, condone or remain indifferent to the realization of any scheme to divide the motherland.
III. National Defense Construction
Established in 1993, the Macao Garrison of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) was stationed in Macao under the leadership of the Central People's Government. It was established in Macao in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC). The stationing of the PLA garrison in Macao was carried out strictly in accordance with the will of the Chinese people and the wishes of the Macao people, and respected the will of the Macao people to maintain their own system.

The Macao Garrison is responsible for conducting military activities, including preventing and suppressing disorders threatening national security and social stability, participating in the management of military installations, handling matters concerning foreign military personnel in Macao, and providing assistance to the local police in maintaining public order. It is also responsible for implementing policies and laws formulated by the Central People's Government.

The Macao Garrison is a part of the Chinese People's Armed Police Force (APF) and directly under the leadership of the Central People's Government. Its establishment and stationing have been widely praised by the Macao people as a successful example of the Central People's Government's commitment to national security and social stability.

The Macao Garrison plays a vital role in maintaining national security and social stability in the region. It helps to promote the development of national economy and culture, enhances the unity of the Chinese people, and contributes to the country's national economic development.

The Macao Garrison has established channels for contacts with Macao society, thereby promoting the Macao people's knowledge of national defense and their understanding of the country's national security and social stability. It also helps to foster a sense of national identity and pride among the Macao people.

The stationing of the PLA garrison in Macao has been widely praised as a success in maintaining national security and social stability in the region. It is an important symbol of the Central People's Government's commitment to the maintenance of national security and social stability.

The Macao Garrison has established an institutional framework for national security and social stability, including the establishment of an organizational structure, the training of personnel, and the development of strategies and mechanisms.

The Macao Garrison plays a vital role in promoting national unity and enhancing national identity. It helps to promote the development of national economy and culture, and contributes to the country's national economic development.
IV. Armed Forces Building
governments, formulate rescue and relief measures, establish disaster situation reporting systems, work, the general headquarters/departments, military area commands, provincial military commands, Yangtze River and the Huaihe River Valley, rainfall flow concentration in Gansu Province, and sand

past two years, it has participated in building over 20,000 km flood-prevention dikes, over 30

and storms in some areas, and mud-rock flows and landslides along railways and highways, the PLA

semi-mechanized and mechanized weapon systems to automatized and informationized systems as

Faced with the world's military developments and the characteristics of modern warfare, the Chinese

coordinated and highly efficient way.

manoeuverability, battlefield intelligence and reconnaisance, operational command and protection,

armaments has enhanced the capabilities of fire repression, ground assault, battlefield

advanced foreign military technology. It has made great achievements in modernizing its weap-onry,

Since 1949 China has adhered to the principle of focussing on self-reliance while actively drawing on

Consistently placing weaponry construction in a prominent position, the Chinese armed forces strive

the corps level and military academies and hospitals in large- and medium-sized cities.

maintenance and post exchange service will be gradually contracted out in organizations at or above

continuous explorations, to realize a socialized service system by contracting out certain logistical

insurance system with Chinese characteristics is gradually taking shape. In addition, the soldiers'

system stipulated in the Na-tional Defense Law of the PRC, the State Council and the CMC jointly

area commands, and special material supply and service support are provided by the services and

provide the armed forces with flexible and effective field facilities for logistical supply, sustainment

operational readiness. Logistical work supporting emergency mobile forces has been quickened.

emphasis on key points, scientific management, and diligence and thrift, it strives to provide adequate

institutions, and medical and political officers throughout the PLA will receive unified training.

ideal; and the hard struggle to safeguard the people's interests to meet the requirements of the people

high technical command specialties with relevant specialties, and some officers will receive

national defense science and technology, information engineering, science and engineering, naval

capability of the troops under high-tech conditions.

command and control simulation system, new equipment operation training simulators and a

network training have been actively promoted. A combined tactical training base system suitable for

program system has taken shape, with the focus on enhancing the level of difficulty and intensity of

In the late 1990s, the PLA, in order to adapt to profound changes in the world's military affairs and

rank and file. They cultivate in their officers and men a firm faith in revolutionary ideals and a spirit of

people above everything else and carrying forward the patriotism and revolutionary heroism of the

rules and regulations. The Chinese armed forces constantly strive to increase the ideological

knowledge; the educational guidance with practice; and the strict discipline with greater self-control.

To win future wars, the Chinese armed forces resolutely give play to their power in ideological and

the improvement of overall quality; the study of advanced ideology with the grasp of general

Development of military institutions

With the aim of pursuing the modernization of the armed forces, the Chinese armed forces abide by

the overall planning, the principle of systematicity, the principle of combining the present with

the future, and the principle of making the army more efficient, more modern, and more effective.

The China military has expanded the number of colleges and universities to meet the needs of

military reforms. A number of military academies and schools and training establishments have

consolidated reform. The General Armament

number of organs at and above the corps level was reduced by over 1,500, making the command

military academies and schools and training establishments, and dismantling and merging internal

less than 2.5 million by downsizing the Army, restructuring the naval and air units, deactivating some

Military legal knowledge has been incorporated into the military education and training of the PLA

or act as agent when accepting authorization by military units or servicemen.

national examinations. The armed forces are manned with military lawyers at three levels: the corps,

at or above the regiment level, carry out investigation of criminal cases within the armed forces in

Court. The military procuratorates are special people's procuratorates set up by the state in the

set up by the state in the armed forces and consist of three levels: the PLA, the military area command

headquarters/departments, the services and arms and the military area commands have formulated
V. International Security Cooperation
Military Engagement

China has been an active participant in the process of the CICA to ensure its success and sound development, and has supported cooperation in emergency rescue and disaster relief, safety in sea navigation and anti-smuggling, and confidence-building measures in the military field. In May 1998, China and Ukraine signed the Agreement on Cooperation in the Military Field, and the ARF Seminar on Defense Conversion Cooperation.

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VI. Arms Control and Disarmament
Recent years have seen a number of positive developments in the area of international arms control and disarmament. China continues to take a positive attitude towards the negotiation and adoption of international arms control and disarmament instruments. It is also committed to taking practical measures to address relevant issues. China has consistently taken an active and responsible attitude towards the negotiation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and their Destruction (CWC). It has consistently affirmed its respect for and adherence to the CWC and has actively participated in the work of the Conference on the Prospects of the Disarmament of Chemical Weapons. China has also actively supported the work of the Conference on Disarmament of Nuclear Weapons (CDNW), and has participated in the workshop on the future shape of the CDNW.

China is a strong advocate of the principles of international law and the United Nations. It attaches great importance to arms control and disarmament, and is committed to promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. China has been a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) since 1970, and has implemented the Treaty's provisions. China has also adhered to the terms of the NPT, and has consistently practiced the principle of non-proliferation. China has been committed to the peaceful development of nuclear energy, and has actively participated in the global efforts to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

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