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I. United States

1. US Domestic View of Anti-terror Campaign

The New York Times (Todd S. Purdum, "DEMOCRATS STARTING TO FAULT PRESIDENT ON THE WAR'S FUTURE," 03/01/02) reported that US Senate Majority leader, Tom Daschle, and two powerful committee chairman are questioning whether the US is expanding its military efforts without a clear explanation of its aims. Senator Daschle, told reporters today, "I don't think it would do anybody any good to second-guess what has been done to date. I think it has been successful. I've said that on many, many occasions. But I think the jury's still out about future success." On Wednesday, Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, told Defense Department officials that they should not expect "blank checks to be written" for expansion of the war effort without a clearer understanding of the administration's goals beyond Afghanistan. He complained that "there's no end in sight" to US involvement there. Senate Republican leader, Trent Lott, promptly issued a statement rebuking Daschle, saying: "How dare Senator Daschle criticize President Bush while we are fighting our war on terrorism, especially when we have troops in the field? He should not be trying to divide our country while we are united." House Republican whip, Tom DeLay of Texas, issued a one- word response to Mr. Daschle's comments: "Disgusting." [This article also appeared in the US State Department's Early Bird Report for March 1, 2002.]

2. Taiwan-US Defense

The China Post (Chris Cockel, "US MILITARY CANNOT PROTECT TAIWAN, SAYS ADMIRAL BLAIR," Washington, 03/01/02) reported that commander in chief of the US Pacific Command Admiral Dennis C. Blair expressed that in the event that the PRC decided to attack Taiwan, neither the island's own military forces nor those of the US would be able to prevent a great deal of damage being caused. Speaking before the House International Relations Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific and the Subcommittee on Middle East and South Asia, Blair stated that such damage could come from missiles, long-range aviation and sabotage. The reality, however, is "that China cannot attain its stated goal of reunifying Taiwan by military force," he said. "They do not have the military capability to take and hold Taiwan." This situation, in Blair's view, will remain unchanged as long as the US adheres to the Taiwan Relations Act. Blair maintained that the situation across the Taiwan Strait, from a military point of view, is relatively stable, largely based on the continued US pledge to support Taiwan militarily. Blair also commented, "In the meantime, I think we can hold the military ring to make that very unattractive for China to conduct military aggression, and we can have a good outcome for that part of the world."

3. Taiwan-Philippines Fighter Jets

Agence France-Presse ("TAIWAN READY TO OFFER FREE FIGHTER JETS TO PHILIPPINES: REPORT," Taipei, 03/01/02) reported that Taiwan is prepared to supply the Philippines with several F-5E fighter jets for free to assist it in battling terrorism. US Representative Dana Rohrabacher disclosed the Taiwanese offer at a Congressional hearing in Washington this week. She was quoted as saying that the offer depended on approval from the US government, which helped Taiwan produce the fighters. Taiwan has no diplomatic relations with the Philippines, which is paying host to about 660 US troops advising the Manila government on its campaign against Abu Sayyaf Muslim rebels. The US has so far shown no objection to Taiwan's offer. Neither Taiwanese nor Philippine officials were available for comment.

4. PRC-US Weapons Proliferation

Reuters ("CHINA AND U.S. TO HAVE TALKS ON ARMS CONTROL," Washington, 03/01/02) reported that the US State Department announced on Thursday that the PRC and the US will have talks on the PRC's missile technology exports next week when a senior PRC official visits Washington for an arms control conference. PRC director-general of the Foreign Ministry, Liu Jieyi will meet US Assistant Secretary of State John Wolf during the conference at the Brookings Institution. State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher stated, "They'll have a chance then to discuss the non-proliferation issues. We look forward to that meeting." The US desires the PRC to guarantee it will not export weapons technology to nations hostile to the US. The PRC wants the US to lift sanctions imposed for violating a November 2000 agreement and resume issuing licenses to US companies to launch satellites on PRC rockets. "These are issues we've discussed in the past, and we look forward to discussing with them again in the hopes of reaching a conclusion," Boucher said.

5. ROK-US SAM-X Deal

The Korea Times ("ROK, US MOVE CLOSER TO SAM-X DEAL," Sohn, Suk-joo, 03/01/02) reported that the ROK has made significant progress in negotiations with US defense contractor Raytheon Company over a 1.9 trillion won (US$1.5 billion) project to procure 48 Patriot missile systems, defense sources said yesterday. "Raytheon accepted Air Force's demand for payments stretching

over the next nine years. The two sides will only have to settle minor differences over the timetable for payment," a defense source told The Korea Times. The source, who asked not to be named, predicted that the two sides would be able to sign a final deal for the project, code-named SAM-X, after the Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA), which expired yesterday, is extended by an additional two months for further negotiations. The project is aimed at replacing the ROK's aging Nike Hercules missile systems with advanced Patriot missile systems called PAC-3. [This article also appeared in the US State Department's Early Bird Report for March 1, 2002.]

The NAPSNet Daily Report aims to serve as a forum for dialogue and exchange among peace and security specialists. Conventions for readers and a list of acronyms and abbreviations are available to all recipients. For descriptions of the world wide web sites used to gather information for this report, or for more information on web sites with related information, see the collection of other NAPSNet resources.
We invite you to reply to today's report, and we welcome commentary or papers for distribution to the network.

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