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2. US-ROK Military Alliance

Chosun Ilbo ("SEOUL, WASHINGTON PREPARE NEW MILITARY STRATEGY", Seoul, 2010/07/22) reported that the ROK and the U.S. announced they are preparing a new plan dubbed "Strategic Alliance 2015" after a meeting of foreign and defense ministers in Seoul on Wednesday. "When we agreed to delay the takeover of full operational control, Seoul and Washington didn't simply agree to delay the time but focused on many issues and problems that we've observed over the last 60 years during which we've maintained the bilateral alliance," they said. The strategy will also include an upgraded version of the operational plan in case of a war on the Korean Peninsula, which currently commits the U.S. to sending 690,000 forces and five aircraft carrier fleets to the peninsula.

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3. PRC on US-ROK Military Exercises

Global Times (Chen Rui , "MORE S.KOREA, US DRILLS LIKELY", Beijing, 2010/07/22) reported that the US won't give up on using the Yellow Sea as a bargaining chip with the PRC in its contention for interests in and dominance of Northeast Asia, [Chinese](#) military experts warned. The PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement Wednesday, "We resolutely oppose any foreign military vessel and planes conducting activities in the Yellow Sea and China's coastal waters, which undermine China's security interests." "We will continue to follow closely the developments of the situation," the ministry said, urging the relevant parties to exercise calm and restraint and refrain from activities that would escalate tension in the region.

<http://military.globaltimes.cn/world/2010-07/554656.html>

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4. Sino-DPRK Economic Relations

Yonhap ("CHINA ACQUIRES RIGHT TO USE ANOTHER DPRK PORT", Shenyang, 2010/07/22) reported that the PRC has acquired the rights to use another one of the DPRK's northeastern ports, a PRC official said Thursday. An official at the Tumen city government in northeast PRC said that a Chinese state company has now obtained the rights to use the port of Chongjin, about 70 kilometers south of Rajin.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/news/2010/07/22/0200000000AEN20100722008000315.HTML>

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5. Japan-PRC Energy Cooperation

Kyodo ("JAPAN, CHINA EYE EARLY CONCLUSION OF GAS EXPLORATION TREATY", Hanoi, 2010/07/22) reported that Japanese Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada and his PRC counterpart Yang Jiechi agreed Thursday that the two countries will seek to conclude at an early date negotiations aimed at signing a treaty over joint gas field development in the East China Sea. The envisaged treaty will reflect the details of an accord reached by Japan and China in 2008 over the disputed gas exploration in the sea area. The dispute stems from the unsettled demarcation of the East China Sea where the exclusive economic zones claimed by the two countries overlap.

<http://home.kyodo.co.jp/modules/fstStory/index.php?storyid=513437>

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6. Japan on Nuclear Nonproliferation

Yomiuri Shimbun ("NONNUCLEAR NATIONS SEEK BIGGER SAY VIA ALLIANCE", Tokyo, 2010/07/22) reported that the Japanese government has begun work on forming an alliance of nonnuclear states that will aim to give those nations a greater voice on global nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation issues, according to sources. Having conceived the alliance in cooperation with Australia, the government intends to call on 11 other nations, including Canada, Germany and the ROK, to join the alliance. A U.N. General Assembly meeting scheduled for September is considered by the government to be a good opportunity to hold an inaugural meeting of the 13 founding member nations, the sources said.

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/20100722TDY01T01.htm>

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