Increased Deployment of US Troops to the Philippines

Violation of sovereignty, threat to peace

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan
January 31, 2012
Increased Deployment of US Troops

- Negotiations to deploy and station additional US troops to the Philippines, more military exercises and more frequent landings of US warships have already started

- The US-PH Strategic Dialogue started this January 2012

- The negotiations will be finished during the upcoming visit of US Sec. State Clinton, US Senator John McCain and Joe Lieberman
Increased Deployment of US Troops

- In the Strategic Dialogue, the US and the Philippine governments are affirming the Mutual Defense Treaty as a bolster to the relationship and alliance between the two countries.

- US Representatives will visit the country in February for the next dialogue.

- This will be followed by a high-level ministerial meeting in March (Clinton, Panetta, del Rosario, Gazmin).
“New” US Strategy

- January 3, 2012 - The narrative of the new US defense strategy has a focus on Asia and the Middle East

- According to Obama, "we will focus on a broader range of challenges and opportunities, including the security and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific."
“New” US Strategy

- Sustaining US Global Leadership, Priorities for 21st Century Defense
- In the context of the worsening crisis in the US economy, the US sees a need to control trade and resources of the world and project US military power in the middle of a dire fiscal crisis and intensifying internal contradictions
“New” US Strategy

“U.S. economic and security interests are inextricably linked to developments in the arc extending from the Western Pacific and East Asia into the Indian Ocean region and South Asia, creating a mix of evolving challenges and opportunities. Accordingly, while the U.S. military will continue to contribute to security globally, we will of necessity rebalance toward the Asia-Pacific region”.
“New” US Strategy

- “Over the long term, China’s emergence as a regional power will have the potential to affect the U.S. economy and our security in a variety of ways”
- The US is using talks about the Spratly Islands and the threat of China to justify US military presence and interference in the region
“New” US Strategy

- Stronger US military "presence operations" in the country through:
  1) "Rotational" deployments (as they are doing in Mindanao)
  2) Bilateral and multilateral training exercises (Balikatan)
  3) Port calls of warships
“New” US Strategy

- According to the US, deployment is just "temporary" and "rotational," US bases won’t return.
- The truth is, even though "rotational," the presence of US military in the country has been permanent since 2002.
“New” US Strategy

- Flexible: Even without formal military bases, the US is using the VFA and access arrangements to set up what resemble bases in the country, even using the facilities of the Philippines.
- Permanent: At any time of the year, the US has ensured that it has forces in the Philippines.
- This is a violation of the Constitution and national sovereignty.
Threat to Peace

- The objective of the US is to surround China and North Korea because these are countries that do not follow the dictates of the US.
- The US is using the dispute about the Spratlys to give a reason for intervention in the region and to control the flow of trade in the South China Sea.
- Instead of being helpful, this only adds to the tension and conflict in the region.
Threat to Peace

- We oppose the use of brute force against China regarding the Spratlys dispute and we support peaceful, diplomatic ways of resolving this dispute.
- We are opposed to US intervention in this issue and using the dispute only for its own imperialist interests.
Modernization of the AFP?

- The call of the AFP and Malacanang that the addition of US troops will help modernize the AFP is a fallacy.

- The Mutual Defense Treaty has existed for 60 years and the VFA for 13, but the AFP has still not been modernized.

- Being overly dependent on the US is the main reason why the AFP has not modernized.
US Troops Out Now!

- Oppose the addition of US troops and new military exercises!
- US Troops out of Mindanao!
- Junk the Mutual Defense Treaty and the Visiting Forces Agreement!
- US Out of Asia!
US Troops Out Now!

We must prepare for visits, important meetings and anniversaries:

- Feb. 4 - Anniversary of the Philippine American War
- Feb. 8 - Birthday of Claro M. Recto, forum about US troops
- Feb - US Assistant Secretary of State for Political and Military Affairs Andrew Shapiro and Deputy US Trade Representative Demetrios Marantis visit the country
- March - US-PH Ministerial meeting in Washington DC

(continued)
US Troops Out Now!

- April - Much larger Balikatan exercises scheduled to take place in Mindanao
- May 27 - 13th anniversary of the VFA
- June 12 - Independence Day
- July 4 - Fil-Am Friendship Day