

The 3rd Tokyo Defense Forum Subcommittee Summary by the Chair

(Tokyo, 28 January 2004)

The 3rd Tokyo Defense Forum (Forum for Defense Authorities in the Asia-Pacific Region) Subcommittee was held in Tokyo from 27 to 28 January 2004. The Subcommittee was chaired by Mr. Kinji Hoshiba, Director of International Policy Planning Division, Defense Policy Bureau, Japan Defense Agency.

The following states participated in the discussion of the Subcommittee: Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, the United States, Vietnam and Japan.

Ireland and the European Commission took part in the discussion of the Subcommittee, representing the European Union.

The Chair referred to the outcome of the 8th Tokyo Defense Forum held in October last year, at which the participants discussed the topics of "Weapons of Mass Destruction and Missiles: Threat and Possible Responses"(Session I), "Responses of Defense Authorities to New Situations"(Session II), and "Toward the Transparency of Defense Policy"(Session III).

The Subcommittee, based on the outcome of the above meeting, held discussions on "Fight Against Terrorism" for Session I, and "Maintenance of Maritime Security" for Session II.

Session I: Fight Against Terrorism

Associate Professor Naofumi Miyasaka of the National Defense Academy delivered a keynote speech regarding the current situation and future prospect of the fight against terrorism.

China, Indonesia, Singapore, and the United States made presentations on this topic.

The participants shared the view that any act of terrorism including 9-11 terrorist attacks is despicable and cruel, and cannot be forgiven in any way. Also, the participants recognized that the threat of terrorism continues to exist, and the fight against terrorism is ongoing, and eradication of terrorism is a major issue for the international community.

Some participants stated that the perception toward terrorism threat has changed its shape in time.

Some participants made presentations on their domestic measures (such as their domestic legislations, establishment of new anti-terrorism organizations, anti-terrorism training) as well as cooperation with other countries (such as information exchange and joint exercises).

The participants also shared the view that in order to fight against terrorism coordinated efforts by not only defense authorities but also several other relevant authorities are needed, and discussed the role of defense authorities in this field.

In this regard, the participants noted that under the framework of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) many initiatives to tackle terrorism, including several workshops, have been taking place. Some participants explained the recent anti-terrorism activities which have been taking place under the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation

Organization.

Some participants pointed out that in terms of terrorist threats in South-East Asia one should take note of relations between activities by Jemaah-Islamiah(JI) and Al Qaeda.

Some participants pointed out the risk of terrorists to acquire weapons of mass destruction (WMD) including nuclear, radioactive, biological and chemical weapons, and called to make further effort for international community to prevent it.

In this connection, some participants referred to the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) which aims to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction through international cooperation, and expressed their hope that this initiative, through its cooperation with non-member countries, should strengthen the effort toward non-proliferation.

Some participants observed the greater exchange of financial information of terrorist organizations is an area which must see increased cooperation among governments. Also, some pointed out that each country should develop the capacity to tackle terrorist organizations, and that capacity building in this field is necessary.

Session II: Maintenance of Maritime Security

Australia, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia and the Philippines made presentations on this topic.

The participants shared the view that as an issue of international cooperation, ensuring safety of commercial sea passage has become increasingly important to the global economy.

The participants noted that issues regarding maritime security such as piracy, armed robbery, sea terrorism, movement of weapons of mass destruction, illegal immigration and drug smuggling are becoming increasingly serious. The participants emphasized the need for the international community to step up efforts against these threats.

Some participants shared the experience of their domestic measures to ensure maritime security, as well as measures with other countries including joint exercises.

Some participants pointed out that this is an issue to be tackled at all government level including defense authorities, and that cooperation within the government including information sharing is vital.

Some participants mentioned that drafting of a Regional Cooperation Agreement on Anti-Piracy in Asia (ReCAAP) is in progress, and that cooperation including exchange of information in the multilateral framework is important in response to piracy and armed robbery.

Some participants commended the activities of the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) stating that it is contributing to coordination among defense authorities in the region.

The participants shared the view that in order to maintain maritime security each country needs to make efforts while cooperating with other countries, that progress should be made in such activities as joint patrols among several countries, capacity building for countries in need and enforcement of networks, and that active discussions in the region should take place on this issue.

| | |-------| | Other | |-------|

The participants welcomed the fact that this Subcommittee provides the opportunity to enhance mutual understanding and trust between defense authorities at the working level, and commended the success of the meeting with the participation of 21 countries and one organization(the European Union).

The participants welcomed that the 9th Tokyo Defense Forum be held in October 2004 in Tokyo. The participants shared the expectation that the Tokyo Defense Forum will continue to bring opportunities to enhance mutual understanding and trust in the future through exchanges of views and cooperation among the countries in the Asia-Pacific Region.

It was agreed that the outcome of this Subcommittee will be reported by the chair country of the Subcommittee at the next ARF Interessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures (ISG on CBMs), which will be held in Myanmar in April this year.