

## United States – Organizer of War Exercise Threatening Peace and Security

The joint military exercise "RIMPAC", being conducted by the U.S. in the Pacific, set the stage for increased tension in the Asia-Pacific region.

According to the report, huge military forces including 38 surface ships, 4 submarines, 170 aircraft and 25,000 troops have been mobilized for this exercise which would go on for scores of days.

The U.S. is advocating that the goal of "RIMPAC" is to ensure the security of the free and open Indo-Pacific and establish the rules-based international order.

But this is simply a honeyed word for covering up the aggressive character of the exercise.

All humanity is now suffering from the global pandemic and consequential economic crisis. Just at this time, the U.S. is spending vast sums on conducting this exercise. Its ulterior motive is to contain China and hold sway over the Asia-Pacific region.

Its real intention is to tighten anti-China encirclement ring by drawing its allies into the implementation of Indo-Pacific strategy under the pretext of ensuring "freedom of navigation" and "safeguarding democracy". This has been posing a serious threat to the peace and security of the Asia-Pacific region.

It is no accidental that the international media are raising voice of concern that "RIMPAC" has put many cities in the East Asia in potential danger of destruction.

People in the Pacific countries are also roundly denouncing "RIMPAC" as a perilous military move that destroys the regional ecosystem and incurs violence.

The U.S. and its vassal forces, carried away by the wild ambition for world hegemony and lunacy of confrontation, have set off the dark wave of neo-cold war in the Asia-Pacific. This wave is also finding its way into the Korean peninsula.

It is evidenced by the joint military exercise the U.S. is planning to conduct together with south Korea in the coming August.

It is axiomatic that the reckless military moves of the U.S. would push the Korean peninsula into a vicious cycle of tension and military collision.

We are keeping a close watch on the development of situation on the Korean peninsula and the Asia-Pacific region.

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## DPRK Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Independence of Donetsk and Lugansk

Pyongyang, July 15 (KCNA) -- A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry Friday gave the following answer to a question put by KCNA as regards the fact that the DPRK recognized the independence of the People's Republic of Donetsk and the People's Republic of Lugansk:

As reported, on July 13 the DPRK decided to recognize the independence of the People's Republic of Donetsk and the People's Republic of Lugansk and expressed the will to develop the state-to-state relations with those countries in the idea of independence, peace and friendship.

To develop the state-to-state relations of friendship on the basis of respect for the principle of people's rights to equality and selfdetermination is the peculiar and legitimate right of a sovereign state specified in the purpose and principles of the UN Charter. Ukraine, which had committed acts quite contrary to impartiality and justice in the state-to-state relations while aligning itself with the U.S. unreasonable and illegal hostile policy toward the DPRK in the past, has no right and qualification to take issue with the DPRK over its legitimate exercise of sovereignty.

The DPRK will as ever develop the bonds of friendship and cooperation with all other countries in the world that respect its sovereignty and are friendly to it, on the principles of sovereignty equality, non-interference and mutual respect. -0-

