

# **South China Sea, Hague Permanent Court of Arbitration and ‘9-dash demarcation’,**

Notes for Hon. David Kilgour, J.D.

At Embassy of People’s Republic of China, Ottawa

August 25, 2019

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Approx 200 Canadians of origin in Vietnam protesting across St. Patrick’s St. from embassy today

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**Mesdames et Messieurs, cheres amies/chers amis,**

- **In 1974, the party-state in Beijing sent its navy to seize some islands in the Paracels archipelagos off the coast of Central Vietnam from the then Republic of Vietnam. In 1988 Beijing seized additional islands from Vietnam, claiming that both sets of islands seized lie in its waters, based on China’s “9-Dash Region” in the South China Sea. A Beijing map shows a region running from Hainan Island in the north to Malaysia, Borneo, and Indonesia in the south of the South China Sea as belonging to China. China’s contention is in contravention of the *United***

***Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea  
(UNCLOS) of 1982;***

- **On July 12, 2016, the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague ruled that the 9-dash demarcation could not be used by China to make historic claims to the South China Sea, parts of which are claimed by six governments in the region. The Court held that the map had “no legal basis” for its disputed maritime claims;**
- **For the past 7 years and despite this ruling, Beijing has turned reefs in the South China Sea (which the Vietnamese call “East Sea”) into artificial islands on which fortified fortresses were constructed with seaports to accommodate cargo and war ships, and large airports for military aircraft;**
- **Recently, the Beijing party-state sent a fleet of coastal police ships to escort a research ship to explore oil and gas in a region call Bai Tu Chinh, which is on Vietnam’s continental shelf, despite protests from Vietnam;**
- **China has built hangars and deployed fighter bombers, ammunition depots, anti-air missiles, anti-ship missiles, gun placements, and radar facilities on these islands; Chinese troops have been stationed there and appear ready for combat;**
- **China now appears capable of blocking the passage through the Malacca Strait in Malaysia, thus preventing the free international movement of merchandise in the Pacific;**

- **Beijing's military initiatives here and elsewhere in the region are endangering world peace. In addition, it appears to be slowly taking over Vietnam's territory, although to date the Hanoi government has responded in a timid way, perhaps due to its subservient attitude towards Beijing;**

### **Actions required**

**We call today upon the Government of Canada:**

- **To declare that Beijing's occupation of the area within its 9-dash region, which it has unilaterally drawn for itself, is illegal in international law because it contravenes the UNCLOS as interpreted in 2016 by the Permanent Court of Arbitration;**
- **To impose sanctions against corporations which have been involved in these illegal activities.**

**Thank you.**