

# PACIFIC FORUM TRILATERAL STRATEGIC DIALOGUE FOLLOW-UP TTX

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Players: United States (U.S.), Republic of Korea (ROK) and Japan (JAP)

## Move 1

### CHINA/HK

Into the spring of 2020 the Hong Kong protests remain well-organized and participant numbers are at an all-time high. Protestors utilize guerilla tactics, rising up in city districts and dispersing as the police arrive. They ignore the face mask ban, yet hundreds of protestors are arrested in their homes. The arrests only incite more protests and result in more extreme public demands, including for Chief Executive Carrie Lam to step down and allow the Hong Kong people to directly elect their city government without interference from Beijing. President Xi continues to dig in, denouncing protests as foreign-inspired terrorism. Protestors appeal to the international community – and especially the U.S. – to aid Hong Kong in defense of its democracy.

China dispatches non-military personnel to Hong Kong to advise Carrie Lam and her staff. The next evening an outspoken Hong Kong protest leader's house is raided and he disappears.

That week a radical group of students brutally assaults an armed police unit, leaving 2 policemen dead in the streets of Hong Kong.

In response, the Chinese People's Liberation Army mobilizes along the Frontier Closed Area and increases security along the Hong Kong-Shenzhen border as a contingency plan.

The Hong Kong government declares a state of emergency and demands that protestors to disband or face arrest.

### DPRK

Working level US-DPRK Negotiations continued into the fall of 2019 and the two parties agreed to implement the first phase of a multi-step agreement. In phase one, they struck a formal agreement to freeze nuclear development and testing and IAEA inspectors entered Yongbyeon to oversee facility dismantlement. While there was no formal agreement to freeze missile development and testing, Chairman Kim extended his promise to refrain from long-range missile tests. In return, the U.S. agreed to freeze all combined exercises/drills during negotiations and extend partial sanctions relief on civilian use of energy products.

In the spring of 2020, the U.S. promptly expands negotiations from the nuclear to the missile domain. Media reports state that the US seeks a formal moratorium on all missile testing, a declaration of DPRK missile facilities, agreement to cease production, and IAEA verification of a production freeze. As the DPRK resists this demand, planned further sanctions reduction measures are stalled, and talks stalemate.

Recent "leaked" Japanese satellite intelligence reveals the presence of surfaced DPRK submarines--believed to be SLBM-capable--in the ROK EEZ approximately 100 km south of Ulleung Island.

Unverified Japanese sources confirm that the JS Oryu of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force has left port.

**Time:** 60 minutes

**Questions for individual country teams:**

1. What information/intelligence do you need and how do you obtain it?
2. What are your three diplomatic and three military actions? Prioritize them.
3. What message would you send to China?
4. What actions would you request of your allies, the United States, Republic of Korea and Japan?

**Move 2**

China/HK

Several leaders from the Civil Human Rights Front are abducted by unknown persons, presumed to be the government police force.

A group of evacuating Chinese citizens are held hostage by the same student protest group.

The next day President Xi publicly states that the People's Liberation Army is deploying a mechanized battalion of commandos into Hong Kong to "restore order and protect innocent Chinese people from terrorism and destabilizing foreign influences."

Lam's statement urges the people of Hong Kong not to engage the People's Liberation Army.

Ambassador Harris and USFK General Abrams state to Korean media that in light of precipitating events the U.S. is considering sending more forces ISR forces to the region, including airborne early warning and control systems, and bolstering U.S. naval presence in the East China Sea and South China Sea.

White House statement: "The United States will act to maintain stability and protect the autonomy of free societies in the region" as consistent with the 2019 Indo-Pacific Strategy.

The US 7th Fleet maneuvers to international waters near the East Sea. The USS Ronald Reagan leaves Yokosuka Air Base and enters the East China Sea past Okinawa. The USS Theodore

Roosevelt carrier strike group sailed from the Indian Ocean to just off the coast of Subic Bay.

The Chinese Southern Theater Command prepares for mobilization by recalling its troops to bases and Army Rocket Force mobilizes its short-range and medium-range missiles.

The spokesperson for the People's Liberation Army's Southern Theater Commander issues a public statement: "The Southern Theater Command and the Army Rocket Force are mobilized in response to rising threats from the US carrier groups in China's near seas. The People's Liberation Army will take all the necessary actions to preserve peace and order in the region."

Chinese Foreign Minister states: "The US military presence is a threat to regional stability and emboldens terrorist acts in Hong Kong. China is being pressed to demonstrate its resolve to protect its people, its sovereignty, and its peaceful development with all forms of national power."

US-DPRK

In response to the US fleet presence in the East China Sea, the DPRK Foreign Ministry demands that "threatening US assets leave the area surrounding the peninsula." It declares negotiations void, accuses the US of "violating the spirit of the Singapore Declaration", and tests an SLBM that lands in international waters about 50 km from the USS Ronald Reagan.

The DPRK Foreign Ministry states that a submarine was sunk and its 20 service members died in the East China Sea.

The ROK Ambassador to the United Nations informs the Security Council that the research center on the Socotra Rock collected data pertaining to the incident and that the ROK government will launch a formal investigation to uncover further details.

**Time:** 60 minutes

**Questions for bilateral groups: U.S.-ROK, ROK-JAP, U.S.-JAP:**

1. What information/intelligence do you need and how do you obtain it?
2. What are your three diplomatic and three military actions? Prioritize them.
3. What message would you send to China?
4. What actions would you request of your allies, the United States, Republic of Korea and Japan, and the United Nations Security Council?

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