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Thus the plan (tentative): The USFG should do the aff on the condition that South Korea abandon the planned Jeju Naval Base

Jeju is political hot potato that can be used as a bargaining chip

Kyoungeun Cha, FPIF contributor and works for the Peace Network in South Asia, 6/18/10, FPIF article compiled on Lexis

The naval base issue has also become a political hot potato in the recent elections on Jeju Island. Most candidates promised to deal decisively with the conflict between the government and the islanders. But the people of Jeju are very mistrustful of the current Jeju governor's handling of the naval base plan. When the ministry of the National Defense Department decided to build the naval base site in Geongjeong village, the procedure to secure the agreement of the villagers was not transparent. The referendum that took place on May 14, 2007 did not accurately reflect the real opinions of the residents. Four months after the referendum, when the Geongjeong Village People's Council held a vote on the issue, 94 percent of the villagers were against the naval base. After the recent election on the island, the naval issue became embroiled in more controversy. As soon as the election finished, Captain Lee Eun-Guk of the Jeju naval base business committee announced that the Navy plans to begin construction in the harbor and bay in September. On the other hand, Woo Geun-Min, the newly elected governor, expressed regret over pushing ahead with the naval base plan so precipitously, saying that "Now it's time to respect each other's view." Jeju islanders have appealed to him. But the new governor has not opposed the naval plan in principle. Rather, he has adopted an ambivalent posture. Last April, 450 Geongjeong villagers filed a suit against the defense minister. The suit maintains that the ministry illegally approved the base plan without carrying out an environmental impact statement. The first court decision on the suit will be handed down on July 15. In terms of the conflict between islanders and government, the case of the Jeju base is similar to the situation involving the U.S. military base in Okinawa. Former Japanese Prime Minster Yukio Hatoyama resigned after approving the original plan of relocating the Futenma Marine Corps base within Okinawa prefecture. Although acknowledging Okinawan concerns, Hatoyama decided to keep Washington happy. Jeju's new governor, like Hatoyama, is caught between local demands and national priorities

Staying in Jeju would cause unprecedented militarization

United Nations Center for Peace and Disarmament for Asia and the Pacific, 5/22/07, <http://blog.peoplepower21.org/English/19790>

Our concerns that the establishment of a naval base in Jeju would lead to the complete militarization on Jeju Island are becoming realized. On May 8th when Hoichan Noh, congressman from Democratic Labor Party, visited to Jeju, he argued that fighter jets battalion would be deployed in Jeju and the Ministry of National Defense and the local government were negotiating to provide 300,000 pyeong." In addition, he expressed his suspicion that 'the southern troops for searching and rescuing' planned as part of the mid-term vision of defense was quite same as the plan for Jeju naval base in terms of size, budget, facilities ect. That means although most of Jeju residents oppose the plan, the Ministry of Defense is enforcing the plan for the establishment of a naval base in Jeju only by switching the name to the troops for searching and rescuing. According to the parliamentary records which Congressman Mr. Noh opened to public, it seemed obvious that the Defense Ministry also is planning to establish an air base after a naval military base in Jeju. One naval officer's statements in the records tell us the reason why the Defense Ministry has enforced the plan for the establishment of a naval base again since 2005 and lied to the Jeju residents by saying they had no plan for an air base in Jeju. "No one doubts about its necessity and practicability of an air base in Jeju. However, when the decision on a naval base hasn't been made yet, bringing up the issue of an air base will risk both plans", said the officer. And he added, "The Ministry had another plan since 2006 to push for an air base as soon as the problem of a naval base would be settled down." Although the Navy has insisted on the necessity of a Jeju air base, they denied their plan for it by saying that "Jeju is not a good place for an air base." in a response letter to PSPD's inquiry. It was such a deceitful manner. Another statement from an Navy officer - "we will just reserve the land for an air base and use it only in case of emergency."- could be seen as an indication that the recent prior consultation on MOU between the Military of National Defense and the local government of Jeju was to manage to get the land for an air base. Considering our hopes for keeping Jeju as Peace Island which would be functioned as a bridge for peace in Northeast Asia, we have argued that building an air base in Jeju itself is unnecessary. Moreover, we have raised our concern that once a naval base is established, additional ground and air forces can be introduced. That will be meant to turn the whole island into a military base. The Ministry of National Defense has insisted that an air forces for searching and rescuing will only work as rescue corps in the sea so far. If so, it doesn't make any sense that fighting combat units are included in that plan. Moreover, that doesn't explain the roles of the units which are engaging in local wars in case a territorial conflict breaks out and building up long-distance flight capabilities. The Defense Ministry changed the name of the plan to forces for searching and rescuing, but the contents of the plan is exactly same as the one for the establishment of an air base. Therefore, it is clear that deployment of searching and rescuing forces is only a preparation for building an air base in the future and the efforts for building a naval base will lead to the complete militarization in Jeju. We also would like to point out a possibility that a naval base might prompt Korean army's participation in the U.S. activities to keep their military hegemony over the sea. While it is hard to expect the situation that Korean navy will dispatch 7000t AEGIS, LPX, or a submarine to a long distance by itself, it is quite possible if it is an U.S.-Korea joint military operation. As you know, U.S. has consistently asked for the Korean army to take part in their so-called War on Terrorism such as PSI, CSI, RMSI. That is why we has kept suggesting the high-possibilities not only of the Korean army's participation in the U.S. marine military operation, but also of the use of Jeju naval base by the U.S. military. Moreover, that means that Jeju will possibly be a target in case of Chinese marine operation or military exercise. Nevertheless, the Defense Ministry and the local government are pushing for the plan of a naval base in the name of national security and economic development, both of which are very ambiguous. As it proceeded, they didn't really pay attention to the residents' opinion. They kept saying that they would proceed the project based on the residents' decisions, however, ironically they have opposed to directly ask the people and announced the Defense Ministry would propose sites for a military on their own. Also, the Ministry has raised distrust among the residents by having changed a proposed site several times from Hwasoon to Weemee, and from Weemee to Kangjung again. In addition, they have tried to fool the resident by exaggerating economic benefits from a naval base. Given that settling a military base would have a great effect on the residents' lives, it is very problematic that the Jeju governor announced that the decision would be made by polling the public without enough discussions and verification. In particular, the fact that the local government is negotiating with the Defense Ministry on providing 300,000 pyeong for a military base shows that the polling will be used only as a ground for establishing a military base. The Blue House also supports the moves to establish a military base in Jeju. President Roh used to have a stance to emphasize on the Jeju residents' opinion and to insist on reconsideration for the military plan back in 2002 when he was a candidate for presidency. Later on, when he became president, he declared Jeju as Peace Island. However, he hasn't properly proceed the project for Jeju Peace Island, but rather takes a leading role to build a military base in Jeju. President himself debases the vision for Jeju Peace Island. Although president Roh has been calling for peace and prosperity, this situation shows that Roh administration's lack of understanding on peace. Therefore, the Blue house, Defense Ministry and Jeju local government all should take responsibility for the disputes and conflicts surrounding the establishment of a military base among residents. It is also certain that the residents' distrust on them is increasing. As our concer that the establishment of a naval base would be just a start of the complete militarization of Jeju is being realized now, the government should reconsider the plan all over again. The local government should stop all the negotiations on the naval base and make its position clear on an air base. As long as all these suspicious remains, the plan for the establishment of a military base shouldn't be proceeded. Lastly, we would lay stress on the fact that establishing a naval base jumping on arms race in Northeast Asia will not protect the Korean Peninsula, but rather risk peace in this region by increasing the levels of military tensions. We should take a lesson from the past, that the presence of a military base had rather put Jeju in danger. Only establishing the real Peace Island of Jeju will help make the residents' lives and furthermore the Korea Peninsula better.

Internal Link – Jeju key relations

Jeju exacerbates East Asian relations

Kyoungeun Cha, FPIF contributor and works for the Peace Network in South Asia, 6/18/10, FPIF article compiled on Lexis

The naval base issue affects the very existence of the islanders' life. The construction of a naval base not only could raise regional military tensions but also disrupt the ecosystem on the island. There are many cases of environmental destruction due to military bases in the Asia-Pacific region, including Okinawa, Hawaii, and Guam. The South Korean government has argued that tourism and U.S. military bases can coexist. According to Kyle Kajihiro, a leader of the DMZ-Hawai'i / Aloha 'Aina network, "The Korean government's argument that militarization has been good for Hawaii and would be good for Jeju is dead wrong." U.S. marine corps bases in Okinawa, Hawaii, and Guam were constructed in the postwar era before the rise of tourism on these islands. Jeju Island has already been discovered as a tourist destination, so the base will likely cause severe damage to the local economy. In terms of security, economy, and environment, the Jeju naval base is a risky proposition. It's not a good idea to ignore the dangers. South Korea's naval power can't catch up with China and Japan. Instead of constructing a naval base on Peace Island, South Korea should signal to China and Japan that a naval arms race is simply not worth it. Sea-power competition also raises some troubling questions about the future of maritime stability in Asia. There are many territorial disputes in the region, and there have been numerous naval clashes. No one wants another Okinawa situation. However, it's possible to preserve maritime security through a nonmilitary cooperative system like the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) or the Council for Security Cooperation in Asia-Pacific (CSCAP). Those organizations have played a major role in safeguarding maritime stability by encouraging governments to negotiate with each other. A military base on Jeju Island and a naval arms race in the region, on the other hand, will only make a bad situation worse.

Jeju Island is a SK response to increasing naval power from both Japan and China

Kyoungeun Cha, FPIF contributor and works for the Peace Network in South Asia, 6/18/10, FPIF article compiled on Lexis

Jeju Island’s strategic location has become even more important recently because of increased regional interest in maritime security. China and Japan have strengthened their marine military strategy. A 2009 Pentagon report estimated Chinese naval forces to possess 260 vessels, including 75 "principal combatants" - major warships - and more than 60 submarines. Also, the navy receives more than one-third of the overall official Chinese military budget of $78 billion. Because the Chinese government greatly underreports its military spending, however, China's real military budget is more than that. Meanwhile, Japan has similarly developed its naval military strategy. Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) deploys perhaps the most modern and capable diesel-electric submarine force in the world. The MSDF has 44,000 military personnel, 18 submarines, 9 frigates boats, and the second largest number of Aegis-equipped destroyers in the world, after the United States. South Korean President Lee Myung-bak's administration has also joined this effort to increase naval power. According to the 2010 defense budget, spending on naval vessels is increasing 23.7 percent over last year's numbers. The naval base built on Jeju alone was earmarked for 97.5 billion won ($7.8 million). "The investment in the naval ship sector is focusing on securing high-tech destroyers and submarines continually with an aim to improve capability of command of the sea around the Korean Peninsula as well as building up capability to perform landing operation," says Korea Institute for Defense Analyses (KIDA) scholar Peak Jae Ok. The Cheonan incident, which involved the sinking of a South Korean ship in the Yellow Sea, has pushed the Lee administration to increase naval spending in the 2011 military budget. South Korea has pledged to increase maritime surveillance and national defense R&D to prepare for North Korean provocations. However, director of the Center for Security and Strategy at KIDA, Park Chang-Kwoun, says that "the South Korean government needs to balance military power and advise government officials not to make hasty decisions."

Impact – Jeju Key to East Asian Stability

Jeju Island is now the critical center of a new potential phase of a new East Asia naval arms race

Kyoungeun Cha, FPIF contributor and works for the Peace Network in South Asia, 6/18/10, FPIF article compiled on Lexis

Maritime security has been a top issue in Northeast Asia recently. The sinking of the South Korean ship, the Cheonan, was a major agenda item at the annual summit that South Korean conducted with Japan and China on Jeju Island last month. Jeju Island is important for another reason. The South Korean government is planning to build a naval base there. Jeju Island is a special self-governing province located just southeast of South Korea. Its location in the center of Northeast Asia has given Jeju Island a political and geographic advantage. To the east, the island faces Tsushima Island and the Japanese prefecture of Janggi, with the South Sea and East China Sea in between. To the west, Jeju faces Shanghai across the East China Sea. The South China Sea lies south of the island, while the mainland of South Korea lies to the north. Despite its strategic location, Jeju Island is a strange place for a military base. UNESCO has declared the island a World Heritage site, and it is a popular honeymoon destination. The former Roh Moo-hyun government also designated Jeju as a "peace island." And yet the South Korean government has wanted to build a naval base on the island since 2002. Although there has been strong local resistance, the South Korean government plans to build the base in Geongjeong village, the third proposed site. Jeju Island has long been a focus of strategic and security interests in Northeast Asia. During World War II, the Japanese used the island to defend Japan from American forces. There were supply bases on the island for 75,000 Japanese soldiers. The U.S. military later attempted to fortify the island after the fall of Japanese empire. And today, Jeju Island is again the focus of attention. But this time, it is the latest escalation in a naval arms race in Northeast Asia.

This will raise tensions between the US-ROK alliance and China, escalating into a naval arms race and widespread East Asia war

Kyoungeun Cha, FPIF contributor and works for the Peace Network in South Asia, 6/18/10, FPIF article compiled on Lexis

The U.S.-Korea alliance is closely related to this issue. The naval forces of the United States are the most powerful in the world. The U.S. and South Korean government are expanding their military alliance, and if the naval base on Jeju Island is set up, the U.S. navy will use the base to monitor China's naval power. Because of its close location to China, the naval base will primarily be a bulwark against Chinese expansion rather than defend against North Korea threat (for which the bases in Busan and Jinhae are better suited.) The Jeju naval base is a likely bone of contention between the United States and China because of missile defense. Seoul plans to dock Aegis-equipped destroyers at Jeju. These warships are the main military component of the U.S. missile defense system. According to Xinhua Chinese newspaper, South Korea plans to build a new naval base on the southern island of Jeju to expand the range of its naval operations. U.S. defense contractor Lockheed Martin provides the Aegis combat system to Seoul. "China regards missile defense as the 21st century's greatest threat and is dissatisfied with U.S. missile defense policy," argues Cheong Wook-sik, director of Peace Network in South Korea. China believes that, in the event of a conflict over Taiwan, the United States will inevitably become involved because of missile defense. South Korea, meanwhile, has indicated its interest in becoming more integrated into the U.S. missile defense system. In this way, by becoming caught in a conflict between China and the United States, the naval base could endanger Jeju Island and the national security of South Korea. According to Lee Tae-ho, deputy secretary general of People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy in South Korea, "The Chinese government has a response strategy that first attacks U.S. missile defense in the case of an emergency. That means that the Jeju naval base will be targeted in an armed conflict between the United States and China." Even short of war, the base will create tension among China, Japan, and Korea, which could escalate into a naval arms race in the Asia-Pacific region.

Impact – North Korea Backlash

North Korea is reading the base construction as another SK external threat

KCNA, North-Korean state-run news agency, 1/27/10, supplied in BBC Worldwide Monitoring and compiled and found in Lexis

Pyongyang, January 27 (KCNA) - The People for Achieving Peace and Reunification of South Korea made public a statement on January 21 blasting the South Korean puppet army authorities for working hard to push forward the construction of the Jeju naval base. Accusing the military authorities of trying to hold a ground-breaking ceremony for a naval base in Sogwipho City on Jeju [Cheju] Island, the statement said: When residents there protested against this action, at the dawn of Jan. 18 the military authorities hurled army and police forces into an operation to storm into the venue of protest and brutally suppress its participants. The projected construction of the Jeju naval base is aimed at depriving the residents of their cradle, degrading the natural environment and escalating the military tension on the Korean Peninsula. The military authorities are driving residents out of their land for the construction of the military base on Jeju Island just as they deprived the residents in Phyongthaek of their land under the pretext of implementing "a state policy", the statement deplored, demanding an immediate halt to the project. It declared that the organization would support the residents who turned out in the actions to defend their cradle and struggle in solidarity with them.

Jeju’s symbolic impact destroys any remnant of peace in the area

Yonhap, South Korean news agency, 4/29/10, Nationwide International News compiled by Lexis

(EDITORIAL from the Korea Herald on April 29) -- The Jeju Special Autonomous Province and the central government signed an agreement Monday for the construction of a large naval base on Korea's southernmost and largest island. The five-year, 1 trillion won project is to establish a strategically-important base for the Navy's operations in the Pacific. The naval station is to share berths for civilian cruise ships, a gambit to secure residents' support. As a result, the new base earned the peculiar title of "civilian-military composite tourism port." We believe it would have been better if the defense authorities had chosen another one of the many islands in the South Sea instead of the resort island of Jeju. But the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Navy Headquarters saw Jeju Island to be the best home for a new fleet that will be responsible for protecting Korea's sea lanes. The military authorities were also looking to operate naval task forces from the Jeju base in the event of international maritime disputes a long way offshore. Berths for 20 warships, including sophisticated Aegis destroyers, will be built at the new naval base west of Seogwipo. A civilian section will be built to accommodate two cruise ships at the same time. According to the agreement, the Air Force will return a disused airfield to the province and instead establish an air search and rescue detachment near the projected base to support the Navy fleet. The autonomous province and the central government took pains to ease the negative impact on the residents. The document provides that construction contracts will be given to companies based on the island and that civilian jobs to be created on the naval base will primarily be offered to Jeju residents. No fighters shall be flown to and from the air search and rescue base and no military facilities shall be designated outside the base. Despite these provisions, which reflected residents' demands, the Jeju provincial council refused to endorse the accord on the grounds of incomplete assessment of the base's environmental impact. Some NGOs and a Catholic priests' group are leading a campaign to scrap the naval base plan. Polltakers found the majority of residents were in favor of the base project but objectors claim that samples were too small to be representative. As we look at it, the defense authorities favored the Jeju coast in consideration of the living conditions of the Navy and Air Force personnel in addition to the island's operational advantage. Certain egotism is thus detected on the part of the military. On the other hand, opponents' claim that existence of a naval base would seriously tarnish the image of Jeju Island in the eyes of international tourists or investors is not entirely acceptable. Jeju's "Island of Peace" catchphrase may rather be more impressive to foreign visitors when they watch a large cruise ship berthed in the harbor of the naval station side by side with an Aegis destroyer. The signing of the agreement between the province and the central government would by no means bring residents' opposition to an end, but it could intensify it. It should therefore mark the beginning of steadfast efforts of the military and the Jeju autonomous administration to persuade all affected residents and ensure fair compensation of people who will need to be relocated from their homes. The violent protests in Buan in 2004 over the construction of a nuclear waste storage facility are still vivid in our memory. No such problems should be repeated in building a key naval base.

They’ll Say yes

Public consensus wants US troops to stay

Andrew Yeo, Assistant Professor in the Department of Politics at the Catholic University of America. Published in Foreign Policy in Focus, *Anti-Base Movements in South Korea: Comparative Perspective on the Asia-Pacific*. 6/23/10 <http://www.fpif.org/articles/anti-base\_movements\_in\_south\_korea>

A pro-U.S. security consensus still ingrained in the national security perceptions of South Korean and Japanese elites continues to dominate strategic thinking in Seoul and Tokyo. Heightened tension with North Korea under the conservative Lee Myung-Bak regime has dampened the political climate for anti-base opposition and shaped Asian leaders’ perceptions of U.S. force posture and base realignment in South Korea. Although many South Koreans rebuked President Lee for his harsh response towards the North, the Cheonan incident has nevertheless reinforced this dominant security consensus.25 In South Korea, escalating tensions with North Korea even before the *Cheonan* incident had strengthened South Korean support for continued U.S. military presence on the Korean Peninsula. In this environment, opposition to U.S. military initiatives ring hollow to the broader public compared to previous campaigns. For example, the emerging anti-base movement on Jeju Island earlier this year against the construction of a South Korean naval base capable of hosting two Aegis destroyers has been isolated primarily to Gangjeong village.26 Although the appeal of Gangjeong village’s mayor and residents have received significant attention from global anti-base activists in Okinawa, Japan, Guam, Europe, and the U.S., the movement has garnered relatively little attention in South Korea. The Cheonan incident has also reinvigorated calls to delay the transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON) from the United States to South Korea.27 Currently scheduled to take place in April 2012, the South Korean MND, as well as conservative forces in Seoul and Washington, have advocated delaying the transfer until 2015 after USFK completes its relocation process from Seoul to Pyeongtaek.28 The previous government and progressive NGOs supported transfer of OPCON to South Korea sooner rather than later. However, as East Asia Institute president Sook-Jong Lee argues, following the Cheonan incident, “public opinion began to shift toward the conservative view that Seoul is not ready to take on OPCON.”29 Proponents argue that OPCON’s transfer provides South Korea with greater independence when dealing with North Korea. However, progressive leaders may also find grounds for supporting OPCON’s delay if it contributes to greater restraint on South Korean policies towards the North.

They’ll Say yes

South Korea’s Lee administration still expects the US to provide the bulk of their security

Sun-won Park, Northeast Asia Energy and Security Visiting Fellow, Center for Northeast Asian Policy Studies, in World Politics Review, Brookings Institution, 7/11/10 <http://www.brookings.edu/articles/2010/0317\_korea\_park.aspx>

The government of Lee Myung-bak took office with the view that the ROK-U.S. alliance was in worse shape as a result of the Roh-Bush configuration, and proposed to the Bush administration during the latter's final year in office to upgrade the relationship to a strategic alliance. In April 2008, Lee became the first South Korean president to visit Camp David, a symbol of renewed political amity resulting from the lifting of the ban on U.S. beef imports to the Korean market. The Lee government's strong commitment to the U.S.-ROK alliance, and acknowledgment of its value, has been well-received in Washington, but several sources of potential friction have arisen in the last two years. The problem arises not from the political tone, which has improved, but from the substantive views of a conservative South Korean government that expects the U.S. to play a constant role in defending Korean security. The Lee government would also like to limit increases in military expenditures from the levels pursued by the Roh government (8.7 percent annual growth), and believes that the transfer of wartime OPCON in April 2012 must be postponed, since OPCON is the most reliable guarantee that the U.S. would augment its manpower assistance in the event of a North Korean invasion. On numerous occasions, President Lee has considered raising this rescheduling issue with President Obama, but has so far held off, in light of the desire expressed by the Obama administration not to alter the agreement. The potential rescheduling of the OPCON transfer is driven by Lee's aversion to devoting budgetary priority to military expenditures. But when, soon after coming to power, the Lee government signaled cuts in defense spending, U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates did not hide his frustration with the new government's attempt to "free-ride" on U.S. security guarantees. In autumn 2009, further controversy erupted when President Lee adopted a 3.8 percent increase in the defense budget for fiscal year 2009, over the leaked protests of South Korea's Defense Minister Lee Sang-hee, who had requested a 7.8 percent increase (already 2.1 percent less than the original plan). The two critical tripwires for the OPCON transfer schedule are the relocations of USFK's Yongsan headquarters and the Second Infantry Division to the Pyongtaek Hub Base, currently under construction below the Han River line. When the Lee government proposed to complete the Pyungtaek Military base by 2016 -- or four years later than originally planned -- U.S. Defense Secretary Roberts Gates insisted on sitting in on the annual Security Consultative Meeting (SCM), held in Washington in October 2008, to weigh in on the matter. In an effort to ease the resulting strain on the relationship, the South Korean National Assembly recently approved the Defense Ministry's request to send about 320 troops to Afghanistan, with the mission to protect members of South Korea's Provincial Reconstruction Team operating in the country. It is not certain whether this degree of involvement in the U.S. war effort will be sufficient to absorb the potential shocks should bilateral consultations over flexibility in USFK's out-of-theater deployment result in further reduction of USFK's 28,000 troops.

Even if they say no, we solve our impact

Protest is sufficient enough to convince SK to cancel if pressure is applied

Yonhap, Korean news agency, S. Korea to build naval base on resort island amid opposition Yonhap (South Korea) 4/28/09 Tuesday, found on Lexis

South Korea said Monday it will construct a new naval base on its southern resort island of Jeju by 2014. The 1.2-kilometer-wide base will be designed to accommodate both naval ships and cruise liners, the Ministry of National Defense said in a statement. Once built, the base will be the largest naval facility South Korea operates in its southern region. The plan to begin the development in December comes amid persisting protest by residents who argue the base would raise regional military tension and disrupt their livelihoods. Jeju is home to about 550,000 people. Its local government has recently cited polls to insist that a majority of its population has turned sympathetic toward the plan. On Monday, it signed a tentative deal with the central government to allow the construction of the base on the southern part of the island, a one-hour flight from Seoul. quot;We will continue to work with the Jeju government to convince the local residents the base is in their interest,quot; Lee Jin-won, who oversees the matter at the defense ministry, said in Seoul. About 300 residents staged a rally last week near the city of Seogwipo, some of them shaving their heads, to protest the plan, arguing the government made the decision unilaterally. Lee said 99 percent of South Korean transports ply the waters near Jeju, arguing the base will enhance national security and lead to economic benefits for the population. According to his ministry, two 150,000-ton cruise liners will be able to dock simultaneously once the base is constructed, bringing cash to the local industry, much of which depends on tourism. Over 950 billion won ($715US million) will be spent on the development of the base, the defense ministry said, guaranteeing the reservation of marine habitats that local fishermen and tourism workers rely on. quot;The plan calls for minimizing environmental damage and contributing to national security and the local economy,quot; it said. The Joint Chiefs of Staff has called for the construction of a naval base on Jeju since 1993. Activists and residents have pressured the Jeju government not to allow it, contending the area could suffer both environmental and economic damage while the island could be portrayed as a source of military tension.

[AFF] US pushes Jeju, not South Korea

Jeju has been pushed by the US against the will of the people

Bruce K. Gagnon is the coordinator of Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space. 7/2/10, Peace Action Maine, < http://www.peaceactionme.org/south-korean-villagers-say-no-u-s-navy-base>

I have recently returned from a week-long trip to South Korea, where I visited several communities that are experiencing major expansion of U.S. military bases. Several farming and fishing villages, each more than 400 years old, are either being completely destroyed or severely impacted as their lands are taken for the enlargement of U.S. bases. The Washington Post reported several years ago that the U.S. would be doubling its military presence in the Asian-Pacific region in order to “manage” China. Thus we now see U.S. base expansion on Guam, Okinawa and in South Korea. One such case is the small Gangjeong fishing village on Jeju Island in South Korea. The South Korean Navy is ostensibly building this base, but when members of our organization called the South Korean Embassy in Washington, D.C., to support the opposition to the base by local residents they were told, “Don’t call us, call your own [U.S.] government. They are pushing us to build this base.” The U.S. wants to deploy Aegis destroyers, built here at Bath Iron Works, at the base on Jeju Island largely because of its strategic proximity to China. China imports 80 percent of its oil on ships and a Navy base on Jeju would help give the U.S. ability to “control” this vital shipping lane in the Yellow Sea. While the declining U.S. economy can’t compete with China anymore, the Pentagon is embarking on a strategy that says if we can control access to declining supplies of oil then we will still hold the keys to the global economic engine. A very provocative strategy indeed. Gangjeong village is famous for growing tangerines and for its fishing and soft coral reefs. UNESCO has named the sea coast there as one of the world’s environmental jewels. The building of a Navy base in Gangjeong, to serve as a port for the growing U.S. Aegis destroyer fleet, will require dredging of the sea bed and destruction of the coral. Gangjeong’s rocky coast reminds me much of Pemaquid Point here in Maine. The Navy plans to completely cover the rocks, now full of aquatic life, with cement in order to build docks for the ships. The village of 2,000 people held a referendum where 94 percent of the residents voted against the Navy base. Sadly, though, the right-wing South Korean government is moving forward with plans for the Navy base construction, carrying out the will of the U.S. Navy. Already more than 50 of the residents have been arrested for their nonviolent sit-ins as they attempted to block construction equipment from beginning work. Next month Gangjeong residents will do their third week-long pilgrimage around the entire Jeju Island in order to plead with their government to cancel plans for the Navy base. They are doing all they can to protect their fishing and farming culture. They talk about the need for someone to fight for the water, the coral, the fish, and their lands. The Maine Veterans for Peace recently held another protest at the latest “christening” of an Aegis destroyer at BIW. Few in our state think about where these ships go once they leave Maine’s waters. But I have now seen one community in South Korea that does not want these ships to come there. Gangjeong’s mayor told our visiting international delegation that “Jeju Island is at a crossroads — either eco-friendly or militarized.” When he said that, I wondered how Mainers would feel if the Navy wanted to pour concrete on the rocks at Pemaquid Point? I bet Mainers would fight to the bitter end. That is what the villagers in Gangjeong intend to do.