

U.S. commander warns that China is fast becoming more aggressive across Asia

BY ISABEL REYNOLDS
Bloomberg News

China is rapidly becoming more aggressive in its rhetoric and actions across Asia, the outgoing head of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said, as Beijing turned up the heat on Washington just before Secretary of State Tony Blinken heads to the country for a high-stakes visit.

“We all need to understand that it’s moving very fast,” Adm. John Aquilino told reporters in Tokyo on Tuesday. “The buildup of military power despite a bad economy, the increased narrative of all things inside the 10-dash line are Chinese sovereign territory, then the actions that are going toward enforcement.”

His comments came as the U.S. seeks to build a network of relationships with partners across the region to counter China — a move condemned by Beijing. At the same time, Blinken is set to use his first trip to China since mid-2023 to convey U.S. concerns about Chinese companies providing support to Russia’s war machine and seek to avoid derailing Washington’s ties with Beijing.

In a Foreign Ministry statement released Tuesday, China launched its harshest attack to date on U.S. complaints about industrial overcapacity, signaling that Blinken may be in for some difficult conversations during his

visit that runs from Wednesday to Friday. Aquilino, who is preparing to step down after serving three years in the regional role overseeing 380,000 personnel, said China’s actions in the South China Sea were dangerous and destabilizing. Tensions have grown around the Second Thomas Shoal, where the Philippines maintains a grounded World War II-era ship and Chinese vessels have used water cannons to block Philippine military missions that rotate and resupply troops on the vessel.

He also criticized China for “an increasingly aggressive campaign plan of coercion and pressure” around Taiwan, including increased maritime patrols and continued crossing of a central demarcation line meant to prevent miscalculations. Blinken is also likely to reiterate U.S. support for Taiwan before Lai Ching-te’s inauguration as president in May, which could prompt a negative response from Beijing.

China lashed out at Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida after his visit this month to Washington, where he bolstered ties with the U.S. and took part in the first trilateral summit with the Philippines. Beijing’s military also criticized “a certain non-regional country” for building “small cliques,” a policy it said was “irresponsible and extremely dangerous.”



TOBY MELVILLE Pool/AFP/Getty Images/TNS

After the passage of a law allowing for small-boat migrants to be sent abroad, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said Monday: ‘No ifs, no buts. These flights are going to Rwanda.’

Sunak’s Rwanda deportation bill to become law after drawn-out fight

BY ELLEN MILLIGAN AND ALEX WICKHAM
Bloomberg News

LONDON

Rishi Sunak’s government is preparing to get the first deportation flights to Rwanda off the ground by July after the U.K. prime minister’s flagship law to declare the African nation a “safe” destination for asylum seekers cleared its final hurdle in Parliament.

After weeks of legislative “ping-pong” between the House of Commons and the House of Lords, the unelected upper chamber dropped its opposition to the government’s plan, allowing it to become law. The measure, introduced last year to circumvent a

U.K. Supreme Court ruling that blocked deportations on human rights grounds, passed after the Lords dropped its amendment to include extra procedures before Rwanda could be deemed “safe.”

Peers also accepted assurances from the government over allowing exemptions for those who have supported the British military abroad, such as in Afghanistan.

The first flights will take place in 10 to 12 weeks, Sunak said Monday in a news conference, conceding that he will fail to deliver on a longstanding pledge to get them off the ground by the spring. “Enough is enough. No more prevarication. No

more delay. No ifs, no buts. These flights are going to Rwanda,” he said.

Sunak’s aides see the policy — first announced two years ago under then-Prime Minister Boris Johnson — as a potential electoral game changer, showing that Sunak is delivering on a promise to “stop the boats” bringing migrants across the English Channel, one of five core pledges he made to voters in January 2023.

The urgency to act is clear for the government: The number of migrants reaching the U.K. by boat hit a record in the first three months of the year, undercutting Sunak’s promise.

With the Tories worried

about shedding votes to the Reform U.K. party founded by former Brexit campaigner Nigel Farage, aides see the deportations as a way to claw back votes from the right-wing insurgent party and eat into the opposition Labour Party’s 20-point lead in national polls.

The timeline announced by Sunak raised speculation in Westminster that he is considering holding the general election in July. Having the vote soon after the first flights take off could give the governing party some momentum during a summer campaign, one Tory official said. Sunak on Monday reiterated that he expects to call the election in the “second half” of the year. He has to hold one by the end of January at the latest.

Yet uncertainty hangs over Downing Street’s expectations that getting the Rwanda program up and running will ease the pressure on Sunak and make a difference in the polls.

The government is already preparing for last-minute legal challenges. Sunak said Monday that extra court rooms and judicial time have been reserved in case of last-ditch legal challenges to the policy, while commercial planes have been chartered and 500 escorts have been trained.

Even if flights do get off the ground, there are questions about whether they will prove enough of a deterrent to the boat crossings and whether Rwanda has enough capacity to process more than a few hundred migrants a year.

But along with the state of the British economy, small boats have become a defining policy issue for Sunak as he seeks to present a tough stance and shore up his Conservative base ahead of the general election.

“We will start the flights and stop the boats,” he said Monday.



CITY OF DORAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified a **LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY MEETING** on **May 8, 2024 beginning at 5:30 PM** to consider text amendments to the City’s Land Development Code. This meeting will be held at the **City of Doral, Government Center, Council Chambers located at 8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, Florida, 33166.**

The City of Doral proposes to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION No. 24-

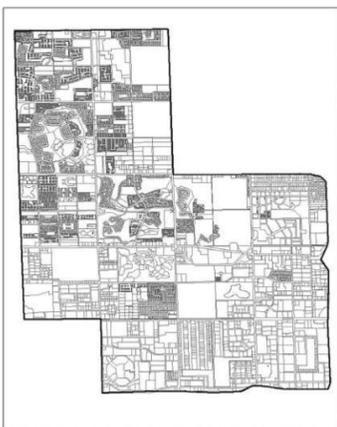
A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, SITTING AS THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY, RECOMMENDING APPROVAL / DENIAL OF, OR GOING FORWARD WITHOUT A RECOMMENDATION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY, TEXT AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF DORAL LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, CHAPTER 74, “MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS,” ARTICLE IV, “ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES,” TO REVISE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE REGULATIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

HEARING NO.: 24-05-DOR-04

APPLICANT: City of Doral

REQUEST: The City Manager’s Office respectfully recommends that the Mayor and City Councilmembers approve amendments to the City’s Land Development Code, Chapter 74, “Miscellaneous and Supplementary Regulations,” Article IV, “Alcoholic Beverages,” to revise alcoholic beverage regulations.

Location Map



Inquiries regarding the item may be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if a person decides to appeal any decisions made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. This notice does not constitute consent by the City for introduction or admission of otherwise inadmissible or irrelevant evidence, nor does it authorize challenges or appeals not otherwise allowed by law. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL no later than three (3) business days prior to the proceeding.

Connie Diaz, MMC
City Clerk
City of Doral



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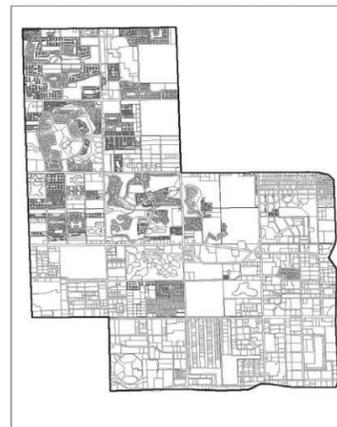
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