Part I

Security Environment Surrounding Japan

General Situation

1. Trends in the International Community

In the international community today, the international security environment has become complicated and uncertain due to factors such as the rise of nations against the backdrop of economic growth in recent years, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and so forth, activities by international terrorist organizations and other non-state actors, and the danger of fragile nations becoming hotbeds for international terrorism.

The relationships of mutual dependence among nations that have brought stability and prosperity to countries at the same time have negative aspects. These include economic problems and security problems that have arisen in certain countries and regional instability factors spreading across borders throughout the world and affecting other countries. In such relationships of mutual dependence, countries have the common interest of ensuring global and regional peace, stability, and prosperity by building a more stable international security environment. Therefore, it is increasingly important for nations that have a common interest in resolving these problems to cooperate in tackling such problems.

It has been pointed out that in the future the comparative superiority of the United States will decline in terms of the military and other areas, but it seems that it will continue to be the most influential nation in the international community. Meanwhile, the Obama Administration is taking a stance of emphasizing further cooperation with major allies and partner countries in order to ensure peace and stability in the international community.

In the meantime, China and India have established themselves as rising powers with their remarkable economic growth. Russia has recovered from the social and economic difficulties of the 1990s, and its national power is on a recovery track. In the future, the relative international influence of these multi-polar-oriented countries is expected to increase.

These trends should be seen as a great opportunity for international coordination and cooperation. At the same time, since developments in these countries may have a considerable impact on the security environment, these developments, as well as relations of mutual dependence, effects on international and regional orders, and the question of what kind of relations should be forged with these countries, are receiving increasing attention.

2. Major Security Issues in the International Community

The proliferation of nuclear, biological, chemical (NBC) and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD) as well as their delivery means, including ballistic missiles, constitute a continued and significant threat to the international community. In particular, the proliferation of North Korea's nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles and Iran's nuclear program pose concerns. Also, there are concerns over the acquisition or use of WMD by non-state actors, including international terrorist organizations, against which deterrence works less effectively, and the destabilization of nations that possess weapons of mass destruction.

Meanwhile, triggered by relevant developments such as a speech by President Obama in Prague in April 2009, there appears to be increasing momentum toward aiming for a world that is free of nuclear weapons, and various efforts by the international community are progressing toward nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear disarmament through opportunities such as the signing of the new START between the United States and Russia in April 2010, the Nuclear Security Summit in April 2010, and the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in May 2010.

Globally dispersed cells of international and local terrorist organizations as well as their ideological sympathizers continue to resort to acts of terrorism, and they continue to be a threat to security. Some say that such international terrorist organizations and so forth are using politically fragile nations such as Afghanistan and Yemen as bases for activities and training. Terrorism continues to occur in Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

Activities in domains that do not have a conventional geographic standpoint, such as outer space and cyber space, have become problems in terms of security. This is reflected in the further progress of military science and technology and the significant advancement of information and communications technology (ICT) in recent years. Cyber attacks on information and telecommunications networks can have a serious impact on people's daily lives. As for efforts in the cyber war, countries are moving forward with specific initiatives such as the reorganization of national defense organizations, while paying attention to incidents of cyber attacks on military networks in foreign countries.

Regional conflicts with diverse and complex backgrounds are still present in every part of the world and proactive efforts are being made to manage and resolve conflicts through U.N. peacekeeping operations (PKO), regional frameworks and multinational forces, mainly in the Middle East and Africa. It has also been pointed out that new factors that influence the global security environment may possibly emerge when competition for energy resources between sovereign states and climate change become more prominent issues in the future.

Ensuring the safety of maritime transportation, which, as the cornerstone of the international distribution of goods, has always been considered imperative, is becoming increasingly important in light of the recent increase in acts of piracy. The international community is making efforts such as dispatching ships and aircraft to cope with acts of piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden.

Furthermore, it is being suggested that various functions of military forces should be used to deal with large-scale disasters and outbreaks of epidemics such as the new strain of swine influenza.

As seen above, today's international community confronts a range of issues from traditional inter-state relations to new threats and diverse contingencies. These issues could arise independently or in combination. In order to respond to such issues, the roles of military forces are diversifying beyond deterrence and handling of armed conflicts to include a broad spectrum of activities from conflict prevention to reconstruction assistance. Moreover, unified responses that incorporate military as well as diplomatic, police, judicial, information, and economic measures are becoming necessary. Accordingly, each state will enhance its military capabilities while determining priorities in line with its resources and circumstances, and will pursue international cooperation and partnership in security areas in order to appropriately respond to its diversified roles and duties.

3. Security Environment in the Asia-Pacific Region

The Asia-Pacific region has been getting more global attention, due to the rapid development of economies such as China and India, resulting in enhanced coordination and cooperation among countries, mainly in economic affairs. On the other hand, this region is considerably rich in political, economic, ethnic, and religious diversity, and conflicts between countries/regions remain, even after the end of the Cold War, unlike Europe. Because of these reasons major changes in the security environment have yet to emerge and long-standing issues of territorial rights and reunification continue to plague the region.
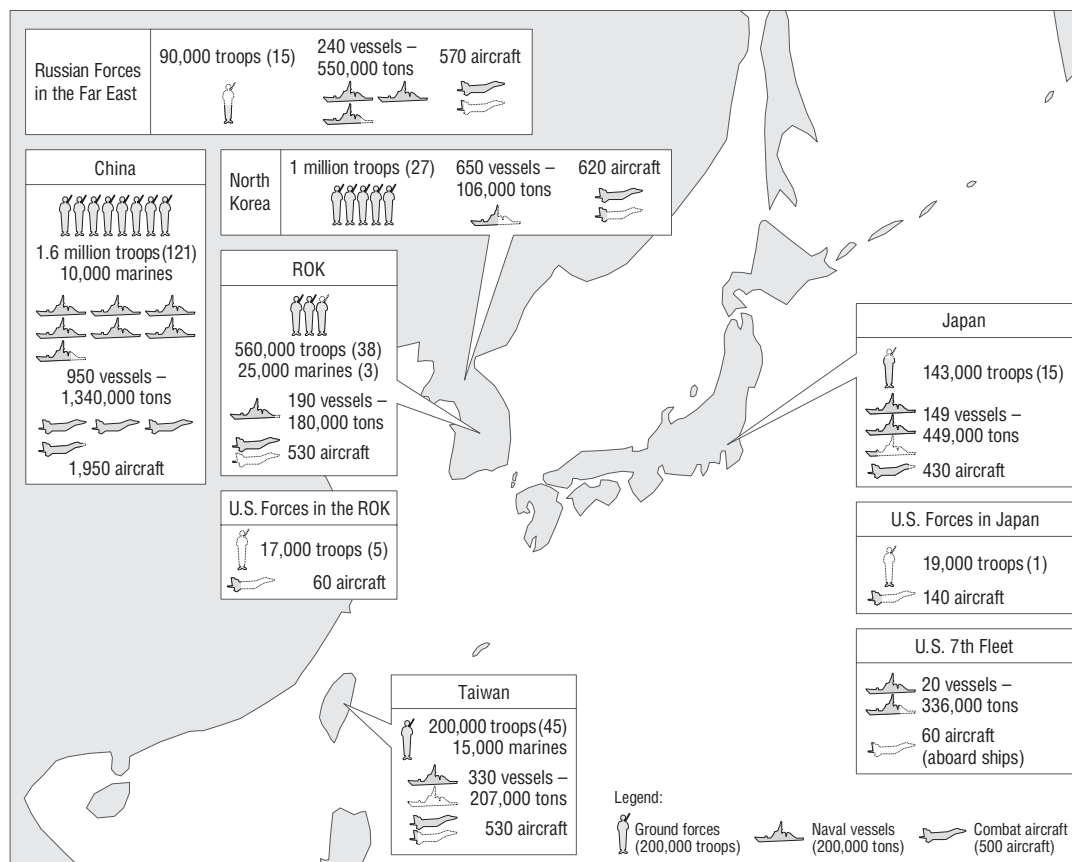
On the Korean Peninsula, the Korean people have been divided for more than half a century, and the faceoff continues between the military forces of North Korea and the Republic of Korea. There are issues concerning Taiwan and the overlapping territorial claims on the Spratly Islands. Japan also confronts unresolved territorial disputes over the Northern Territories and Takeshima, both of which are integral parts of Japanese territory.

Concerns over North Korea's nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles have grown more serious. In 2006, in response to its ballistic missile launch and the announcement of an underground nuclear test, the international community adopted U.N. Security Council resolutions 1695 and 1718, imposing sanctions on North Korea.

In response to the missile launch[1] in April 2009 and the announcement of the implementation of a second nuclear test in May 2009, the international community strongly condemned North Korea's actions, and Security Council Resolution 1874 was adopted regarding the latter, deciding additional measures. After this, North

Korea launched a ballistic missile in July 2009, announced the successful conclusion of a uranium concentration experiment, and entered the completion stage in September 2009. In November 2009, it announced that it successfully completed the reprocessing of spent fuel rods at the end of August and yielded noteworthy results in making extracted plutonium weapons-grade. The fact that North Korea is carrying out nuclear testing and strengthening its ballistic missile capabilities is a significant threat to the safety of Japan. This cannot be accepted as it is a notable hazard to the peace and stability of Northeast Asia and the international community, and there are grave concerns about these trends. In March 2010, the Republic of Korea Navy corvette Cheonan sank in the vicinity of the Northern Limit Line in the Yellow Sea. A Joint Military-Civilian Investigation Group, including Korean and international experts, announced in May 2010 that it was due to a torpedo attack by North Korea. Since then, while both the ROK and North Korea initiated concrete responses and other measures, the international community responded by issuing statements which condemned North Korea for its attack and sinking of the Cheonan, including a G8 summit statement and a statement from the President of the U.N. Security Council. Additionally, the United States and the ROK conducted joint exercises in the Sea of Japan. Developments in North Korea are in an unpredictable situation and need to be closely monitored, including the

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Fig. I-0-0-1 Major Military Forces in the Asia-Pacific Region (Approximate Strength)

Russian Forces in the Far East
90,000 troops (15)
240 vessels – 550,000 tons
570 aircraft

China
1.6 million troops (121)
10,000 marines
950 vessels – 1,340,000 tons
1,950 aircraft

North Korea
1 million troops (27)
650 vessels – 106,000 tons
620 aircraft

ROK
560,000 troops (38)
25,000 marines (3)
190 vessels – 180,000 tons
530 aircraft

U.S. Forces in the ROK
17,000 troops (5)
60 aircraft

Taiwan
200,000 troops (45)
15,000 marines
330 vessels – 207,000 tons
530 aircraft

Japan
143,000 troops (15)
149 vessels – 449,000 tons
430 aircraft

U.S. Forces in Japan
19,000 troops (1)
140 aircraft

U.S. 7th Fleet
20 vessels – 336,000 tons
60 aircraft (aboard ships)

Legend:
Ground forces (200,000 troops)
Naval vessels (200,000 tons)
Combat aircraft (500 aircraft)

Notes: 1. Source: "The Military Balance 2010" publications of the U.S. Department of Defense and others (actual numbers as of the end of FY2009 are shown for Japan).
2. U.S. ground forces in Japan and the ROK are combined figures of Army and Marine Corps personnel.
3. Combat aircraft includes Navy and Marine aircraft.
4. Figures in parentheses show the total number of major units, such as divisions and brigades. Only divisions are included for North Korea. Military police are included for Taiwan.
5. U.S. 7th Fleet is the number of forward deployment to Japan and Guam.

possible impact on the regime of the health issues of Kim Jong-il and the issue of his successor. North Korea's abduction of Japanese nationals is also yet to be resolved. It is a major threat to the lives and security of the Japanese public and its solution will require concrete actions by North Korea.

Many countries in this region have taken advantage of economic growth to expand and modernize their military forces by increasing their defense budgets and introducing new weapons systems.

In particular, China, a major political and economic power with important clout, is gaining confidence in the international community and demonstrating a more proactive stance. It also continues to promote the further modernization of its military capabilities against the backdrop of the continuing rapid growth of its defense budget. China has not clarified the current status of or future vision for the modernization of its military capabilities, and since transparency is not sufficiently ensured regarding its decision-making processes for security and military matters, it has been pointed out that there is a possibility that this could lead to a sense of distrust and misunderstandings in other countries. Furthermore, China is increasing its activities in waters close to Japan. The lack of transparency of its national defense policies, and the military activities are a matter of concern for the region and the international community, including Japan, and need to be carefully analyzed. Based on this situation, there is a need for further improvements to transparency regarding China's military, and promoting dialogues and exchanges with China and further strengthening mutual understanding and relations of trust are important issues. Recently, noteworthy events have occurred such as the announcement of the testing of missile interception technologies.

Russia, under President Medvedev, is pursuing its national interests as "a strong nation", and it is developing its military posture in line with its resources against the backdrop of its economic development to date. Currently, it is moving forward with downsizing its troops, reforming its organizational aspects, rebuilding its readiness postures, modernizing its military, including the development and introduction of new equipment, and so forth. Recently, there has been global deployment of its military, navy and air force in particular, including joint training accompanying long-term voyages, anti-piracy activities, and patrol activities by strategic bombers.

In the Far East, too, Russia continues with active operations of its vessels and aircraft.
(See Fig. I-0-0-1)
In the Asia-Pacific region, where a lack of transparency and elements of uncertainty still exist, the presence of the U.S. military remains extremely important in order to achieve regional stability. Japan and other countries have established bilateral alliances and friendly relations with the United States and, accordingly, they allow the stationing and deployment of U.S. forces in their territories.
In addition, recent years have also seen an increase in opportunities for bilateral defense exchanges between countries in the region. Efforts are being made to engage in multilateral security dialogues, including the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and conferences hosted by non-governmental institutions with the participation of relevant defense ministers, as well as bilateral and multilateral joint exercises. Japan has been hosting the Meeting for Defense Authority Senior Officials at the vice-ministerial level with Southeast Asian countries. Promoting and developing such multi-layered approaches among countries is important to ensure security in the region.

Notes:
1)   The government regarded the launch by North Korea on April 5, 2009 as an activity related to the ballistic missile program that violates the U.N. Security Council resolutions, and decided to refer to said launch as the "missile launch by North Korea."