Statement on the Informal ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) held on October 16, 2015 in Beijing, China:

CHINESE Defense Minister Chang Wanquan emphasized China-ASEAN destiny and the common goal of prosperity. He called upon ASEAN and China to continue promoting practical cooperation such as in the areas of Peacekeeping Operations (PKO), joint patrols, disaster response and deepening of trust between the concerned countries.

In view of the adoption of the Code of Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES), when China hosted the Western Pacific Naval Symposium in 2014, China proposed to conduct joint training on CUES in 2016.

Defense Minister Chang stressed that China will not seek hegemony, its foreign policy is defensive in nature, and it adopts a strategy of active defense — proof of which is the reduction of the PLA's strength by 300,000.

For his part, Secretary of National Defense Voltaire T. Gazmin said, "Maritime disputes are complex issues that require rules-based solutions. As responsible members of the international community, parties must refrain from unilateral actions that change the status quo and increase tensions."

Secretary Gazmin added, "Security challenges should not be the sum total of our relations. We must keep the lines of communication open through dialogues with all parties involved."

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