

駐波士頓辦事處剪報粘貼單

日期

2016年7月20日

報刊名稱

波士頓環球報

版面

A11

Republic of China bridles over ruling on islands

I READ your editorial "China should abide by ruling on islets" (July 13) with high interest but regret that it did not mention the position of my government, the Republic of China (Taiwan), regarding this issue.

My government insists that the Republic of China is entitled to all rights over the South China Sea Islands and their relevant waters in accordance with international law and the law of the sea.

The arbitral tribunal in The Hague, which rendered its award on July 12 in the arbitration brought by the Philippines, did not formally invite the Republic of China to participate in its proceedings, nor did it solicit the Republic of China's views. Therefore, the decisions of the tribunal, which impinge on the interests of the Republic of China, have seriously undermined the rights of the Republic of China over the South China Sea Islands and their relevant waters.

This is especially so with regard to the status of Taiping Island, also known as Itu Aba, which was not originally included in the scope of the arbitration. However, the tribunal took it upon itself to expand its authority, declaring Republic of China-governed Taiping Island to be a rock.

The Republic of China government does not accept any decisions that undermine its rights, and declares that they have no legally binding force on the Republic of China. The government will staunchly safeguard the country's territory and sovereignty, and ensure that our national interests are not jeopardized.

My government urges that disputes in the South China Sea be settled peacefully through multilateral negotiations. The Republic of China is willing, through negotiations conducted on the basis of equality, to work with all states concerned to advance peace and stability in the region.

SCOTT LAI

Director-general

Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston