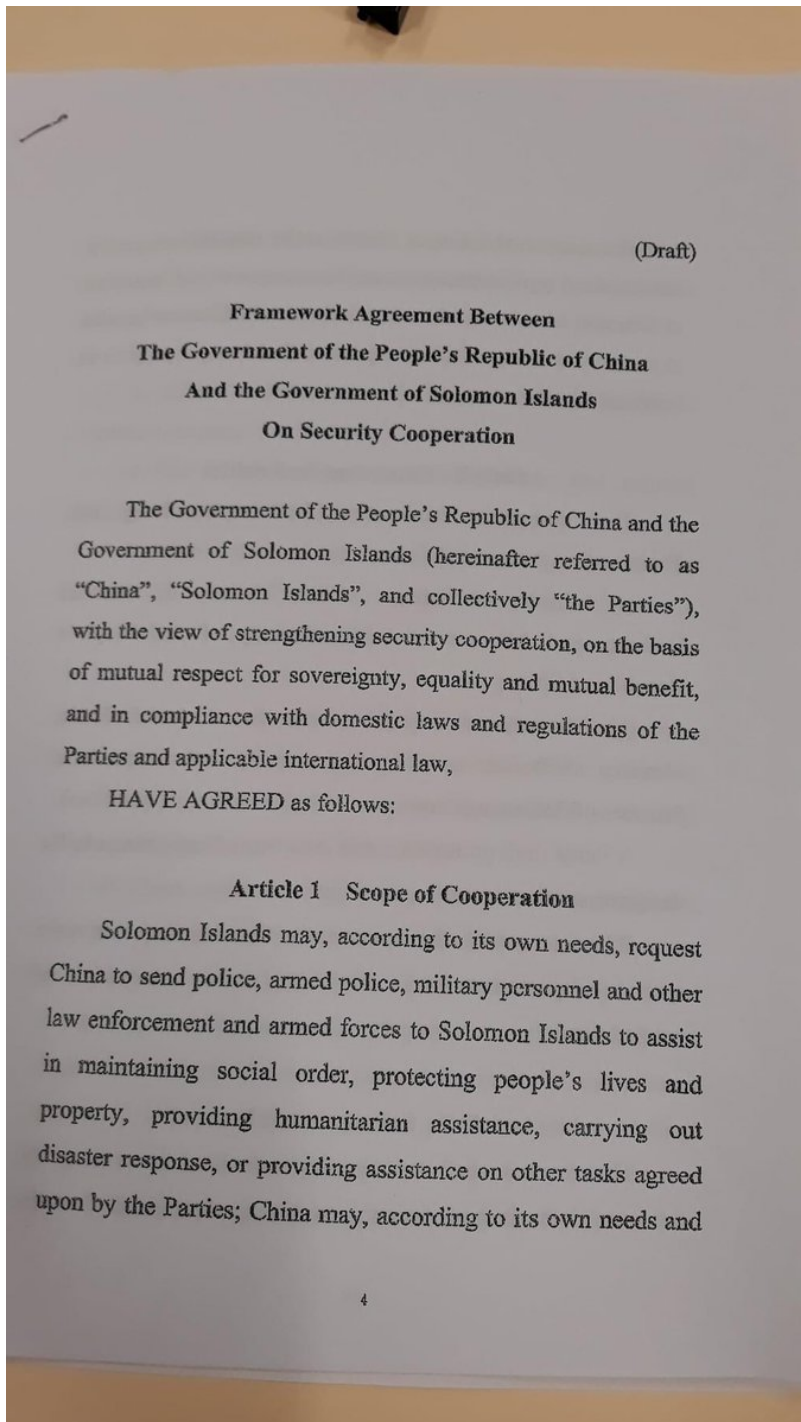




Dr Anna Powles @AnnaPowles Thu Mar 24 04:10:07 +0000 2022

The draft security cooperation agreement between China and Solomon Islands has been linked on social media and raises a lot of questions (and concerns). (photos of agreement in this and below tweet) 1/6 <https://t.co/nnpnJJQC7r>



with the consent of Solomon Islands, make ship visits to, carry out logistical replenishment in, and have stopover and transition in Solomon Islands, and the relevant forces of China can be used to protect the safety of Chinese personnel and major projects in Solomon Islands.

Article 2 Competent Authorities

The competent authorities for implementing this Framework Agreement shall be:

(a) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of National Defense, and Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China;

(b) Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Ministry of Police, and National Security and Correctional Services of Solomon Islands.

A Party shall promptly notify the other of any change in its designation of competent authorities.

When necessary, the competent authorities may designate special departments to establish direct channels of communication.

Article 3 Submission of Request

The request shall be formally submitted in writing by Solomon Islands and forward to China through diplomatic

channels. Should China have any question regarding the authenticity or contents of the request, it may seek solution through consultation by the Parties.

The request shall contain the following items:

1. A brief introduction on the internal security situation of Solomon Islands;
2. The number of police, armed police and military personnel expected from China;
3. Main duties of the security personnel to be sent by China;
4. Duration of the mission.

Article 4 Assessment and Implementation of Request

Upon receipt of the request, China will carefully assess the feasibility of the mission and respond officially through diplomatic channels as soon as possible.

If China agrees to perform the relevant mission, Solomon Islands shall provide all necessary facilities and assistance, including but not limited to the border entry of personnel and weaponry, intelligence and information support, logistical support, and legal status and judicial immunity of the relevant personnel. The relevant expenses shall be settled through friendly consultation by the Parties.

In light of the performance of the mission, the Parties may

shorten or extend as appropriate the duration of the mission by mutual written agreement reached through consultation.

The specific details on the performance of the mission, including jurisdiction, privilege and immunity, shall be negotiated separately by the competent authorities of the Parties.

Article 5 Confidentiality

Without the written consent of the other party, neither party shall disclose the cooperation information to a third party.

Unless otherwise agreed upon, cooperation information, including media briefings, shall be released upon mutual agreement by the Parties.

Article 6 Settlement of Disputes

Any disputes arising from the interpretation and implementation of the Framework Agreement shall be resolved by the Parties through consultation.

Article 7 Entry into Force, Termination and Amendment

The Framework Agreement shall come into force on the date of signing and remain valid for a period of five years. It will be automatically extended for successive periods of five years unless either of the Parties notifies, in written form, the other of the termination of the Framework Agreement at least

With Parliament due to sit in Honiara (and the existing security concerns which led to a RPNGC deployment to Solomons) it will be interesting to see whether the agreement is raised by the Opposition. 2/6 <https://t.co/pQ96MFHLi2>

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six months prior to the expiry date.

The Framework Agreement can be revised and supplemented upon written consensus through consultation, and the revised or added contents will take effect on the date agreed upon by the Parties, and form part of the Framework Agreement.

Done in duplicate in XXX on XXX in the Chinese and English languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of
The People's Republic of China
(Name and Title)

For the Government of
Solomon Islands
(Name and Title)

For the foreign affairs authority :

For the public security authority :

For the defense authority :

Article 1 refers to police, armed police, and military as well as "other law enforcement and armed forces". What is the distinction between police and armed police? Is this a ref to PAP? Who are the other law enforcement and armed forces? What are the "other tasks"? 3/6

Article 1 refs China's "own needs". What are these needs (strategic interests?) and what if they cut across Solomon Islands' interests or the interests of Solomon Islands' key partners such as Australia or PNG? 4/6

Article 1 states China may, according to its own needs & with the consent of the SIG make ship visits to, carry out logistical replenishment in, & have stopover and transition in Solomons. This suggests logistics/supplies will be available in Solomons to support PLAN. A base? 5/6

Article 5 of the security cooperation agreement refers to "confidentiality" and raises questions about the degree to which the parties will seek to control public information = controlling the political narrative. END 6/6

It's important to state the authenticity of this document still needs to be verified. If it is authentic, it is deeply concerning. If it isn't authentic, it still provides some interesting insights into how geopolitical dynamics are playing out domestically in Solomon Islands.