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Diplomacy and International Law ASEAN's Role in the South China Sea Conflict

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan bagaimana kekuatan geopolitik Indonesia dalam menghadapi sengketa Laut Cina selatan dalam persepsi kekuatan dan diplomasi militer. Penelitian ini merupakan sebuah kajian pustaka metode kualitatif dengan menggunakan teknik historis di mana data penelitian didapatkan dari berbagai literatur dari berbagai sumber seperti jurnal, buku, laporan dan sumber-sumber lainnya yang dipublikasi baik secara domestik maupun internasional. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa meskipun Indonesia bukan termasuk sebagai negara claimant dalam sengketa Laut Cina Selatan, sebagai negara bagian dari ASEAN dengan ketertarikan nasional di wilayah Laut Cina Selatan, Indonesia berperan aktif dalam mengawasi kedaulatan negara, terutama pada kasus kedaulatan Laut Natuna Utara. Pemerintah Indonesia beserta seluruh jajaran pertahanan yang terlibat terus memantau dinamika yang terjadi di Laut China Selatan serta mendorong perdamaian negara-negara ASEAN melalui upaya diplomasi perdamaian di tingkat bilateral dan regional dalam penyelesaian sengketa Laut China Selatan dalam rangka melindungi kestabilan keamanan. Tindakan diplomatik dan militer Indonesia dapat dikatakan berhasil seiring dengan hasil signifikan dari Kerjasama bilateral dan internasional dalam menghadapi ketegangan di Laut China Selatan. Kedepannya, koordinasi antar institusi nasional Indonesia terus ditingkatkan guna melindungi kepentingan nasional Indonesia. Upaya penyelesaian sengketa Laut China Selatan dapat dipusatkan pada upaya bilateral, regional (pertemuan Menteri Luar Negeri maupun melalui aktor legislatif seperti ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly dan forum internasional dalam menjaga stabilitas dan

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mendorong perdamaian di ASEAN.

Kata Kunci : *Sengketa; Laut China Selatan; Diplomasi; Militer; ASEAN*

Abstract

Specifically, this research looks at the diplomatic and military capabilities of Indonesia in relation to the South China Sea problem. Journal articles, books, reports, and other local and international sources are consulted in this qualitative literature review that employs historical methodologies. According to the findings, as an ASEAN member country with a stake in the South China Sea conflict, Indonesia keeps tabs on state sovereignty, particularly in the North Natuna Sea. In order to maintain security stability, the Indonesian government and all levels of defence are closely watching the dynamics in the South China Sea and are actively promoting ASEAN peace via bilateral and regional peace diplomacy. In line with bilateral and international collaboration on South China Sea problems, Indonesia's military and diplomatic actions were successful. In order to protect Indonesian interests, national institutions will work together more closely in the future. The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly and other international bodies may be able to mediate a settlement to the South China Sea issue between regional and legislative actors, as well as amongst ASEAN member states.

Keyword: *Dispute; South China Sea; Military; ASEAN*

INTRODUCTION

There is a vast military and diplomatic footprint connecting global power, claims Henry Kissinger. (Hughes & Robb, 2013)

:

"It seems as if every century a new country finds the courage, will, and ethics to rewrite the whole international system in line with its own ideals, as if it were a natural law. Developed in the 17th century by Cardinal Richelieu of France, modern theory of international relations is based on the nation-state and its interests. British diplomats in the 18th century established the balance of power idea, which would govern European diplomacy for the following two centuries. The Concert of Europe, which was revived by Metternich's Austria and disbanded by Bismarck's Germany in the nineteenth century, transformed European diplomacy into a cutthroat struggle for supremacy.

The first chapter of Diplomacy is Henry Kissinger's remarkable history of international relations covering the previous 400 years. Some historians have argued that the 20th century saw a dramatic shift in international relations as a result of the emergence of politicised portrayals of the US. The ever-changing search of a power balance stood in stark contrast to Kissinger's conviction in a law-based, democratic, and free-trade international system. The term "cold-blooded games of power politics" has been used, to varying degrees, in

introductory texts on international politics”(Boutton, 2021).

A fundamental concept of international relations has always been the need to ensure the safety of all peoples, but the truth is that this has been mostly a power struggle throughout history. A state's military component becomes one of its defining features as it attains maturity and gains exclusive control over the exercise of internal and external control in the area. "The function of the State was essentially military and geopolitical" in Britain beginning in the 21st century, according to Pierre Buhler, who claims this in a recently released book on power in the 21st century (Blankenship & Miles Joyce, 2020). So, new countries sprung up all across the globe as a result of advancements in warfare, the plundering of natural riches, and the aspiration to become a strong country.

The United States and Europe used to be the undisputed leaders in military expansion in the 20th and 21st centuries, but China has emerged as a major player in this century, making waves on a global and regional scale. Particularly in Southeast Asia, China's emergence as a new power has a significant impact on the regional balance. The South China Sea claims by China further emphasise this point. The political climate in Southeast Asian nations became even more volatile as a result of this.

It is against the law, according to China, for foreign military to conduct intelligence collection, resource extraction, or reconnaissance flights inside the South China Sea Exclusive Economic Zone. The US claims that under the UNCLOS, or so-called United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, claimant nations are entitled to freedom of navigation across EEZs at sea and are not obligated to notify other claimants of their military activities. A verdict was released in July 2016 by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague regarding claims brought by the Philippines against China under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). In almost every area, the ruling favoured the Philippines (Wang, 2017). Even though China signed the treaty that established the court, the country still does not recognise it.

The international community does not place a high priority on the fuzziness of China's claim to the 9-dash line towards the Natuna Islands because to China's superior diplomatic and military capabilities in comparison to Indonesia. Under President Jokowi, Indonesia has clearly shifted its strategy on the ownership claims in the South China Sea. Instead of actively seeking a resolution to the dispute, the country is now more concerned with safeguarding its own national interests, particularly in the defence sector. This shift is around the Natuna Islands, where Indonesia wants to avoid disappointing China. Indonesia views China as a persistent aggressor because of its alleged continuous territorial breaches in the Natuna Islands.

Given the foregoing, it's critical to examine how Indonesia's diplomacy and military may have responded to the South China Sea conflict's escalation. This is significant because the rise of China as a global superpower has serious implications for Indonesia's ability to maintain control of its maritime borders, particularly around Natuna Island. How can the idea of conflict resolution in the South China Sea be realised via a diplomatic and military approach? This is an essential question to investigate. are Indonesia's diplomatic and military might sufficient to counter China's political escalation in the South China Sea?

RESEARCH METHOD

Researchers often blend qualitative methodologies with historical procedures while doing historical research. In its widest definition, the historical approach is what Abdurahman calls "problem analysis by applying a solution to it from a historical perspective". (Dudung Abdurahman, 2011). Ismaun elaborates on the historical method, which entails drawing on primary and secondary sources to piece together a creative reimagining of historical accounts of events (Ismaun, 2005). Both readings lead to the same conclusion: this historical method looks at an issue or occurrence from a historical vantage point, often by looking at the evidence that already exists and then coming up with creative ways to put it all back together. According to Gottschalk, historical study and research operations are built around four fundamental activities: heuristics, critique, interpretation, and historiography (Sjamsuddin, 2021). Searching for sources to gather data, historical evidence, or both is the first stage in heuristics (Kraska & Pedrozo, 2013).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Indonesian law governs the country's engagement in global peace initiatives (Preamble to the Fourth Alenia Constitution). The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) provides general principles for the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes in conformity with the UN Charter. Peaceful dispute settlement may be accomplished in two ways: binding and non-binding. When a dispute is settled by a non-binding process, the disputing parties are not obligated to follow any particular peaceful course of action. If the parties are unable to settle their disagreement peacefully. In any other case, the disputing parties might resort to litigation and assign decision-making authority to the relevant convention organisations, the Court of Arbitration, or the International Court of Law of the Sea (Abqa et al., 2023).

South China Sea Conflict

The issue erupted after the government of the Republic of China claimed almost all of the South China Sea's waters using the nine-dash line concept. China claims almost the whole South China Sea along an approximate line that connects nine locations; this line is known as the nine-dash line. This is the rationale for China's territorial claim to the South China Sea islands. So, not only did Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei Darussalam, Taiwan, and the Philippines all affirm that their own Exclusive Economic Zones include parts of the South China Sea, but so did Brunei Darussalam and Vietnam (Thao, 2001).

Indonesia's position

The ongoing conflicts in the South China Sea have not settled the issue of maritime borders, and their resolution hinges on who gets to own the features—the islands—therein. Due to its status as one of the plaintiff nations, Indonesia is not directly involved in this dispute. The only fact that is peripheral to Indonesia's interests is the presence of one of the dash lines in the Republic of China, which is supposedly situated 200 miles away from Indonesia's Exclusive Economic Zone claim, according to different parties (Harahap et al., 2023). It is not easy to find the exact location of this line as there are no specific coordinates. Indonesia adopted the following position in response to this issue:

1. China's nine-dash line has been the subject of criticism and non-recognition from Indonesia and other nations due to concerns that it breaches international law and maritime law. When it comes to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Indonesia sees these limits as a problem that impacts all nations, particularly those who are members of the Republic of Indonesia.
2. In 1969, Indonesia joined the United Nations and drew a boundary with Malaysia in the Natuna Sea. The Exclusive Economic Zone Declaration, made by Indonesia on March 21, 1980, delineated a marine zone of 200 nautical miles wide from the Natuna base. Never before has the People's Republic of China raised any objections to these two tools.
3. Traditional fishing areas, marine rights, and historical rights are subject to continuous change. The People's Republic of China also has trouble articulating this claim. In regards to the fishing incident in the Natuna Sea, targeting Indonesia. According to the People's Republic of China, the incident's waters were supposedly the subject of a dispute between Indonesia and China.
4. Indonesia and the People's Republic of China's continental shelf do not meet in these areas, due to the ambiguity of the nine-dash line. Furthermore, the stance is based on the following assertions: a) The nine-dash line cannot be used as a claim line for

delimitation purposes (land establishes a marine zone) since its withdrawal contradicts both international law and the law of the sea, b) When deciding how to demarcate offshore areas in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the coastal state uses the concept of a baseline line, rather than a straight line, c) According to the Arbitral Tribunal's decision, the case's evidence is included in the nine dotted lines, which contradict the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

5. Even though the Chinese government hasn't said anything officially, people may take this line as a boundary that means the islands and reefs within it are under Chinese control (ownership difficulties). Indonesia will continue to take a neutral stance on the matter of the Republic of China Government's claims to South China Sea islands and reefs, so long as these claims are grounded in international law pertaining to territorial acquisition.
6. An opposing viewpoint presented itself, arguing that this line originated from a contentious feature (delimitation material) and was meant to indicate the outer border of the marine zone. In a private meeting with Indonesia's foreign minister, the Chinese minister seems to have laid the groundwork for such an interpretation with his explanation. Resolving the Spratly cluster issue and determining the owner's status would need "differences" between China and Indonesia at sea, according to the Republic of China's Minister of Foreign Affairs. the resolution of Indonesia's EEZ as a result of : a) This is still a point of contention for Indonesia, since the South China Sea is home to atolls and coral reefs that are off-limits to marine zones. The features nearest Natuna were determined to have rights to 12 nautical miles by the Arbitration Panel based on evidence from the Philippines' case, b) While it is feasible to get near to Indonesian seas, the claims to the closest borders will still be in Vietnamese and Malaysian waters. Concerns Regarding the South China Sea Area Held by 24 Individuals from Indonesia (Agusman, 2016).

The policies adopted by claimant states on the South China Sea issue are closely related to their efforts to advance their own national interests. Looking at two interrelated issues—the dynamics of the South China Sea conflict and contacts in the North Natuna Sea—is crucial when discussing national interests. However, Indonesia is the only country that is demanding that its national interests in the North Natuna Sea be influenced by China's nine-dash line claim (Bakung & Muhtar, 2020).

The Natuna Sea is important to Indonesia for a number of reasons, including resilience, economy, and, according to Nuechterlein's concept of national interests, the preservation of the status quo. In terms of defence, Indonesia is primarily concerned with

maintaining territorial control. A connection between economic interests, sovereign rights, and special jurisdiction is established when natural resources inside the Exclusive Economic Zone are used. The international order also helps keep regions safe and secure by acting as a primary commerce and marine route (Feldt et al., 2013). To start, one may argue that the North Natuna Sea territorial sovereignty defence capabilities of Indonesia are being "tested" by the ongoing confrontation in the South China Sea. Indonesia stresses that territorial seas are an integral aspect of its sovereign territory, citing the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Indonesia as a member of ASEAN has a responsibility to help maintain security stability in the region by paying attention to the dynamics of military troop deployment and the strategic interests of the South China Sea region (Muhtar, 2019). Given its proximity to the South China Sea, Indonesia may potentially be directly affected by an increase of tensions in that area. Given these realities, two of Indonesia's national interests that are interconnected with the global order include guaranteeing the safety of international commerce and preserving regional peace and stability amidst rivalry from big powers.

Indonesian Geopolitics and Geostrategy amidst the United States-China Conflict in the South China Sea

China has ambitions to solidify its position in the South China Sea by using traditional fishing zones and the nine-dash line as a claim. To safeguard its energy, commercial routes, and resource supplies, China has made this claim as part of its geostrategic agenda. As a counterpoint, the US vehemently rejected China's claim, claiming it was both false and unlawful (Muhtar & Kasim, 2023). Michael R. Pompeo, former US secretary of state, also stressed that the US will stop China from turning the South China Sea into its maritime empire. The United States' concern over China's activities in the South China Sea cannot be separated from its desire to maintain its maritime hegemony because the South China Sea is a critical area that must be accessible to all parties (Muhtar et al., 2022).

Michael R. Pompeo, a former US secretary of state, echoed this sentiment, saying that the US would prevent China from establishing a maritime empire in the South China Sea. The South China Sea is an important region that everyone must be able to access, which is why the United States is worried about China's actions there and wants to maintain its maritime dominance (Neill, 2020). Up until now, U.S. policy on the South China Sea has focused on how the 2016 Arbitration Court decision finding that China's claims in the region were unwarranted impacted national policy. In addition, the USS Nimitz and USS Reagan will be participating in combined training exercises in the South China Sea. Furthermore,

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American B-25 and B1B nuclear bombers were stationed in the South China Sea for use in long-range attacks (Duchatel, 2020).

The United States has challenges in the South China Sea due to cooperative drills that include a robust defence system, which inform China of the US military presence there (Winkler, 2005). You may recall that in 2020, the US would station 375,000 soldiers in the Asia Pacific area, with 60% of its naval fleet and 2/3 of its navy stationed there. Given the rising tensions in the South China Sea, Indonesia makes reasonable moves based on its knowledge of geopolitics and the development of geostrategy. Indonesia would remain impartial in any escalation in th

South China Sea, according to Chief of Presidential Staff Moeldoko, as Vietnam and China are crucial friends in furthering Indonesia's national interests in the region. By keeping relations amicable on both sides, particularly in the defence and commercial spheres, Indonesia has shown its neutrality.

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In April 2019, ships from the Chinese Navy forcibly removed the French frigate Vendemiaire from the Taiwan Strait. To further the cause of a free and open Indo-Pacific region in line with the principle of free navigation and to bolster American military capabilities, the United States decommissioned the aircraft carrier and fighter planes on February 9, 2021, at President Biden's direction. Prior to its voyage to the Paracel Islands on February 5, 2021, USS John McCain crossed the Taiwan Strait on February 4, 2021, per the US's request.

In the meantime, ASEAN countries like the Philippines have beefed up their military

presence to protect fishing boats from Chinese coast guard firing on foreign ships in the South China Sea, which China claims (Bawaskar, tt). Also, the US and the Philippines got together to talk about the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), which had been cut off before. The Vietnam Free Association (VFA) gave the green light for US military activities in the Philippines to show good faith and discourage China from becoming involved in the contested area. Renouncing the VFA also opens the door for the US-Philippines Mutual Defence Treaty to take effect (Mico, tt). The possibility for an escalation in the South China Sea was a point of worry for the British and Japanese foreign and defence ministers at their virtual meeting on February 3, 2021 (Shaocheng, 2019).

Indonesian Diplomacy Efforts as a Form of Firmness and Rejection of China's Claims

The South China Sea conflict was resolved using a number of diplomatic approaches used by Indonesia during its rule. One diplomatic step was the publication of a new map by the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia that included the phrase North Korea. An further proposal was to have a short cabinet meeting in Natuna by the Indonesian government. Activities aimed at enhancing regional trade and the Natuna Sea. Natuna, prior to the transfer of diplomatic ties to the United Nations. As is well known, Indonesia has repeatedly protested Chinese actions, including the Chinese coast guard's violations of Indonesian sovereignty and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in the Natuna Seas. In 2019, 2020, and 2016, these demonstrations were at their height. Officials in Indonesia informed their Chinese diplomatic counterparts about the protest. According to some messages, Indonesia has rejected Chinese claims to control over North Natuna waters. Other messages claimed that China had violated Indonesia's Exclusive Economic Zone and that its claims to areas designated as traditional fishing grounds were unsupported by international law. Sea region delineated by nine dashed lines. In response to Indonesia's formal protest, China has reaffirmed its right to use the South China Sea waters, citing both historical precedent and its sovereignty.

Secondly, on June 23, 2016, the Indonesian government paid its first official visit to Natuna after the filing of a protest letter to China. In order to address the KRI Imam Bonjol, the Indonesian government and its authorities held a brief cabinet meeting. During the High Level Conference, the primary topics of discussion were on the Natuna region's security and economic development. Returning to Natuna four months after the end of the 2016 Angkasa Yudha Peak Exercise, the Indonesian government conducted an evaluation of the exercise. The Indonesian government's presence in the Natuna waters shows how powerful Indonesia is in relation to China's actions there. It is evident from this situation that Indonesia is actively

addressing the issue of illegal fishing and its ramifications in the Natuna Sea (Shalimah, 2018). Aside from that, it's a confirmation of Indonesia's control over the Natuna islands and waterways.

Thirdly, in 2017, the Indonesian government altered the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia's spatial representation. With the approval of the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and a number of other state organisations, a new map has been approved depicting the North Natuna Sea instead of the South China Sea. Those are the seas that are north of Natuna Island (Agusman, 2016). According to Arif Havas Oegroseno's book "The North Natuna Sea," Indonesia allegedly named the sea to stop the poaching of marine species and biodiversity and to provide the Indonesian Navy clear instructions on how to enforce maritime law (Muhtar et al., 2023). Aside from diplomatic initiatives, Indonesia is also trying to strengthen the economy of the Natuna Islands to bolster its position. in addition to people

In addition, China claims sovereignty over the Natuna region, which includes the territory enclosed by the nine-dash line. In the event that tensions develop between Indonesia and China in the Natuna Seas, Band Maritime Security, as the Republic of Indonesia's coordinator for maritime security, must be ready to address them. In addition, foreign fishing vessels often perpetrate theft and territorial infringement against the Republic of Indonesia, therefore violating its B seas and Maritime Security. B often encounters more than just that. The Department of Maritime and Fisheries Security of the Republic of Indonesia reports that foreign coast guards often protect and even assist illicit fishing vessels in their escape attempts. So, the Band Maritime Security of the Republic of Indonesia must constantly guard Indonesian jurisdiction against various breaches and endeavour to enforce the law in the territorial sea in the event that such violations occur.

A number of policy shifts were subsequently implemented by the Indonesian Ministry of Defence in response to this, including the Republic of Indonesia's authorization of B patrol boats and Security at Sea. Indonesia has equipped its troops to aid Task Force Maritime Security of the Republic of Indonesia in safeguarding the area and to prevent escalating tensions in the South China Sea and its boundaries with the Natuna Sea. This new policy will be effective beginning in August 2020. Rear Admiral Aan Kurnia, Head of the Band Maritime Security, Republic of Indonesia, unveiled the ship. Mounted atop the largest will be the 30 mm calibre cannons. Several weapons including the 12.7 mm calibre gun are located underneath.

The head of the Republic of Indonesian Band has said that the government needs to exhibit official emblems in Natuna seas carefully and consistently to get attention, both

directly and indirectly. He has also said that the band needs weapons. Indonesia also has ongoing cooperation obligations to the Republic of Indonesia Navy (KKP), the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, and the Band Maritime Security of the Republic of Indonesia. The Republic of Indonesia's Head of Maritime Security has said that building trust via the sea requires creating constructive relationships with all parties involved and establishing limited cooperation.

Meanwhile, Indonesia has not yet achieved a satisfactory diplomatic resolution to the South China Sea conflict. The Indonesian government and Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi often mention peace in their public speeches. According to Indonesia, everyone must adhere to international law, especially UNCLOS 1982, for the South China Sea to remain stable and secure. Also, Indonesia is begging everyone involved to prevent the situation from becoming worse (Achir & Muhtar, 2023).

Indonesia maintains its support for the ongoing diplomatic efforts to resolve the problem in the South China Sea. On July 22, 1992, the South China Sea Declaration was released by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which began negotiations to resolve the dispute in the South China Sea. The DOC, first known as the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, was established in 2002 with the joint efforts of China and ASEAN. Indonesia oversaw the formation of the 2016 declaration on the behaviour of parties in the South China Sea, and the ASEAN and Chinese foreign ministers jointly issued a statement on the full and effective execution of the declaration at the same time (Vu, 2013). In 2016, ASEAN and China will also adopt the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES) and establish direct hotline communication between senior officials from the foreign ministries. Taking action in the event of a maritime emergency in the South China Sea in accordance with the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea, the South China Sea Declaration on the Conduct of Parties, and the communication hotline that has been established (Emmers, 2009).

Following this, in August 2017, a Code of Conduct (CoC) Framework was established as a result of diplomatic endeavours and talks between China and ASEAN. Certified expert. It was planned that the second procedural reading will happen in 2020. There has been no conference to address the COVID-19 outbreak since virtual CoC talks were considered challenging. During the 2020 ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) in June, Indonesia's foreign affairs minister Retno Marsudi argued that the Code of Conduct (CoC) should be revisited so that plans that were delayed due to the pandemic may go forward (Mandjo et al., 2023). Hence, ASEAN must keep reminding all nations to back stability and peace in the South China Sea, as Retno Marsudi also stressed the necessity of collaboration and teamwork at

the conference rather than opposition. We must all work together to support the norms of international law, such as the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the procedures he described, and ASEAN must demonstrate its power in this regard.

The leaders of the ASEAN member states have also expressed a need for a code of conduct. At the 37th ASEAN High Level Conference in November 2020, all issues related to the South China Sea crisis will be addressed in a practical and effective manner. The prime minister of Vietnam, who also served as the meeting's chairman, expressed a desire for a set of rules that adheres to and is consistent with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which was established in 1982. When discussing the South China Sea, the Indonesian government once again emphasised the importance of ASEAN's defence and protection efforts (Idrus, 2020). As a regional power in ASEAN, Indonesia played the role of a "honest broker" by supporting discussions to resolve the South China Sea dispute. However, as shown in Indonesia's diplomatic and military preparations, the country was subsequently "pulled" into the conflict. Indonesia has begun safeguarding its national interests due to a territorial sovereignty dispute in the North Natuna waters.

After Joko Widodo took office, Indonesia began to prioritise actions that would advance its national interests in Natuna above the South China Sea conflict. A change from the previous more confrontational stance is shown by the decision to put more emphasis on the actual presence of Indonesian military forces in Natuna. The increasing military might in Natuna waters is shown by the readiness of the Indonesian National Army's troops and defensive assets, including warships and fighter planes, to undertake broader patrols and ensure the safety of the Exclusive Economic Zone. Thanks to successful bilateral and international cooperation, tensions in the South China Sea have not escalated as a consequence of Indonesia's diplomatic and military initiatives.

CONCLUSION

Indonesia and its ASEAN neighbours have valid worries about the South China Sea, especially over the sovereignty of the North Natuna Sea, even if the nation is not actively engaged in the conflict. The Indonesian government has made it a priority to closely observe the situation in the South China Sea and work towards better coordination amongst the appropriate national and regional institutions. A number of government agencies are involved in maritime affairs and investment, including the Indonesian National Army, Navy, Band Maritime Security of the Republic of Indonesia, Water Police, and the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment. Fishing and Shipping. To guarantee the safety of their populations and maintain an environment of calm, member nations of ASEAN

participate in regional and bilateral peace diplomacy as part of their efforts to resolve the dispute in the South China Sea. Because to Indonesia's diplomatic initiatives, military operations, and bilateral and international cooperation, tensions in the South China Sea have not risen, therefore it can be said that these have been successful

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