Do you like Chinese food?

Valley News Editorial Tom Casey - December 3, 2010

The only thing quieter than the Chinese submarine that shocked an American carrier strike group by successfully surfacing next to the Kitty Hawk during recent Pacific operations was the almost complete lack of media attention. And was that mysterious contrail seen off of the California coast around the time of the APEC a coincidence? We probably will not learn much more about that either, but this much is certain - the very belated explanation that it could not have been a missile because "experts" said it was too slow and meandering, exactly describes the characteristics of cruise missiles which the Chinese manufacture in abundance. One thing is absolutely clear, the gloves are off between the United States and China – and we had better understand what we are dealing with.

With the exception of a couple of centuries subdued under the consequences of British prescribed opium, China has been mankind's most dominating nation for thousands of years and their current leadership has been doing an amazing job of rapidly restoring them to their former glory. Unfortunately, much of that credit also goes to us for our willingness to trade them our manufacturing infrastructure for trillions of borrowed dollars that we then squander ordering the most powerful military force in the world to "liberate" little dictatorships into completely dysfunctional "democracies". The United States \$ 700 Billion defense budget is roughly larger than the next twenty-six nations combined, all but two of whom are our supposed allies. One of those that is not particularly friendly from almost any perspective is China, whose incredible build-up of capabilities is a combination of the same intrinsic ingenuity that invented gun powder, gigantic compass-guided sailing ships with rudders, paper, printing... and the list goes on; along with one of the most efficient espionage networks the world has ever witnessed, most of which is directed against us and exploited by the most massive manufacturing capability on earth.

The Song-class submarine that humiliated the Kitty Hawk is capable of firing a submerged-launch, anti-ship cruise missile of the kind that <u>may</u> have left its signature off of our coast. It is also the perfect example of the culmination of Soviet assistance and US stolen or sold technology that the Chinese admit encompasses our neutron bomb and all of our current nuclear weapon designs, including the W-88 nuclear warhead that tops the U.S. Trident II submarine-launched ballistic missile. Add in their theft of quiet electric-drive propulsion systems, their 2001 confiscation of the technology in our highly sophisticated US Navy P3 anti-submarine aircraft and our mid-90s sale to them of the machine tools required make our silent submarine propellers and guess what? They could have sunk our carrier before we even had time to mount a response.

This gets back to the real issue - the printing of money and its use in economic warfare. Today's monetary policy battle ground is a forum within which the Chinese excel. Our nation's recent challenge to them in that regard, in a long overdue effort to restore our manufacturing jobs, most probably caused these very, very aggressive military displays.

And before you dismiss speculation about whether they would so blatantly push back, take a moment to remember their 2007 shooting down of an orbiting satellite or their submarine's ramming of one of our underwater sonar arrays in 2009 that may have helped set the stage for the Kitty Hawk incident. How about their hijacking in April of nearly 15 percent of the world's Internet traffic - including data from the Pentagon, the office of Defense Secretary Robert Gates and other U.S. government websites, or their unveiling last month of the world's most powerful supercomputer (constructed from American designed chips), whose primary use will probably be for weapons systems development and war planning? And did you read about their Zhuhai weapons show just two weeks ago that stunned the world by putting on exhibit a jet powered stealth drone that was shown in a display and video simulation to be attacking a US Carrier?

Well, what about the cold comfort implied by the old Dr. Strangelove strategy of assured mutual destruction? Without digressing into a discussion about how Pakistan, North Korea and Iran got started to threaten the world with Chinese designed nukes, let's take a moment to contemplate Electromagnetic Pulse weapons and more specifically, the non-nuclear versions (NNEMP) first identified by Andrei Sakharov in 1951.

Ever own a Chinese built microwave? Now think about tens of thousands of them on steroids, parked Timothy McVeigh style, or sent through the air in small aircraft or cruise missiles - going off next to strategic installations, population centers and our incomprehensibly vulnerable power-grid. Sound too farfetched to coordinate? The Federal Bureau of Investigation for counterintelligence recently put the number of Chinese front companies in the U.S. at over 3,200. I would suggest multiplying that number by a relatively large factor and then add in all the agents and resources that they could conceivably deploy. And what would be the point of all this? The sudden and complete shut-down of all our electronic devices, including lights, communications, transportation (yes, every modern vehicle has a vulnerable computer controlling it), food processing, climate control and even water delivery. And we thought addressing hurricane Katrina was hard – how about if this happened during a moonless night in the middle of winter? And who now monopolizes the manufacturing of large electric generation turbines and the rare earth metals required to replace all of those devices?

We tested it on a small scale in the Balkans and probably elsewhere, but everyone knows the US will not preemptively deploy these weapons without extreme provocation. Can we absolutely count on the Chinese to feel the same way, when from their perspective we are already in a war for control of the twenty-first century - with them

holding many of the cards and harboring no intention of folding? Can we count on our for-profit utilities to protect our electric grid, when they have just installed "smart" meters that won't even read alternate energy contributions? And can we count on our trillions-of dollars-wasting military-industrial complex that loves to build massive and sophisticated weapon systems that make for great Michael Bay movie props, but can't stop a Song submarine or even our primitive adversaries in Afghanistan? The same insatiable behemoth that consumes so much money that we are rendered the only industrialized country in the world without universal health or elder care, a devastated system of education, tens of millions of over-priced mortgages and unemployment lines as far as the eye can see – and beyond?

And please – with all due respect to the best intentions of the American public and our patriotism, before you tire yourself waiving the American Flag or too many tea-bags, keep in mind that our military budget has never been higher and is administered by arguably the most competent Secretary of Defense this country has ever enjoyed, and that our monetary policy is directed by a Federal Reserve Chairman who routinely performs miracles. So what is the real problem? Just look to the last election cycle - a venomous dialogue underwritten at record expense that completely ignored these critical issues! Yes, it is our congress and their pathetic political-polarizations that continue to direct our military to irrationally spend on weapons systems that perform spectacularly within the context of the previous century and who refuse to take seriously the threat of a wide-scale infrastructure attack that could conclude with our standing in long lines – to savor Chinese food.