

Philippines to split from the USA

22nd October, 2016



The president of the Philippines Rodrigo Duterte has announced his country will move away from the USA and work more closely with China. President Duterte made the

announcement in China's capital Beijing. He was meeting with Chinese leaders to talk about future cooperation between the Philippines and China. Mr Duterte also hinted he might work more closely with Russia. He said: "Maybe I will also go to Russia to talk to Putin and tell him that there are three of us against the world - China, the Philippines and Russia. Duterte said he would end military and economic agreements with the USA. He told the USA: "Your stay in my country was for your own benefit. So it is time to say goodbye, my friend."

President Duterte's announcement could change many things in the Asia-Pacific region. It will mean China is stronger in the area and the USA is weaker. It is possible that Duterte may ask the USA to leave its military bases in the Philippines. The loss of the Philippines bases would be a big problem for the USA. A White House spokesman said: "If the Philippines are out...that starts to raise questions about our whole approach to the region." This break from the US comes after 65 years of close partnership between the two countries. The Russian newspaper 'Russia Today' commented on the changing relations in the Asia-Pacific region. It wrote: "China has just turned a former rival into a regional ally."

Sources: *CNN.com / ManilaTimes.net / RussiaToday.com*

Writing

China would be a better partner than the USA. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

president / move away / announcement / future / cooperation / military / goodbye / Asia / Pacific / military bases / loss / approach / partnership / newspaper / rival / ally

True / False

- The Philippines ambassador said her country will split from the USA. T / F
- An announcement about splitting from the USA was made in China. T / F
- The Philippines might also form stronger links with Russia. T / F
- The Philippines president said it was time to say goodbye to the USA. T / F
- The USA will now become weaker in the Asia-Pacific region. T / F
- The USA may have to give up its Philippine naval bases. T / F
- The USA and Philippines have been partners for 165 years. T / F
- China and the Philippines have now become regional rivals. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

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|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. announced | a. nations |
| 2. cooperation | b. finish |
| 3. hinted | c. good |
| 4. end | d. partner |
| 5. benefit | e. joint action |
| 6. area | f. ex- |
| 7. raise | g. region |
| 8. countries | h. made it known |
| 9. former | i. bring up |
| 10. ally | j. suggested |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about the Philippines?
- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of the Philippines breaking ties with the USA?
- Is the Philippines better working with China or the USA?
- What do you think of the "three of us against the world" comment?
- What can go wrong for the Philippines with breaking from the USA?
- How important is the USA for your country?
- What advice do you have for President Duterte?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. his country will move | a. rival into a regional ally |
| 2. talk about future | b. economic agreements |
| 3. there are three of | c. Asia-Pacific region |
| 4. he would end military and | d. approach |
| 5. Your stay in my country was for | e. away from the USA |
| 6. ask the USA to leave its military | f. cooperation |
| 7. raise questions about our whole | g. partnership |
| 8. 65 years of close | h. your own benefit |
| 9. changing relations in the | i. bases |
| 10. China has just turned a former | j. us against the world |

Discussion – Student B

- Why does the USA have military bases in the Philippines?
- What problems would there be if the USA military left the Philippines?
- What do you think the Philippines' neighbours think?
- How will this change relations between China and the USA?
- How would the world be different if China was the biggest superpower?
- What do you think Russia thinks about this?
- How important is China for your country?
- What questions would you like to ask President Duterte?

Spelling

- noncnuaed his country will move
- talk about future pirnoeacoot
- work more eylolsc with Russia
- three of us igsanat the world
- rmiytail and economic agreements
- for your own tniebef
- in the Asia-Pacific onger
- that starts to ersai questions
- our whole acppohra
- changing ntirolaes
- a former ilavr
- a regional layl

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. c
6. g	7. i	8. a	9. f	10. d

Role Play

Role A – Democracy

You think democracy is the best thing about the USA. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): food, music or foreign policy.

Role B – Food

You think food is the best thing about the USA. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): democracy, music or foreign policy.

Role C – Music

You think music is the best thing about the USA. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): food, democracy or foreign policy.

Role D – Foreign policy

You think foreign policy is the best thing about the USA. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): food, music or democracy.

Speaking – USA

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about the USA at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| • people | • democracy |
| • music | • movies |
| • dollar | • food |
| • foreign policy | • cities |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.