

International

OBAMA INSISTS US DOES NOT FEAR CHINA

(AP)—President Barack Obama insisted Wednesday that the United States does not fear China, even as he announced a new security agreement with Australia that is widely viewed as a response to Beijing's growing aggressiveness.

China responded swiftly, warning that an expanded U.S. military footprint in Australia may not be appropriate and deserved greater scrutiny.

The agreement, announced during a joint news conference with Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard, will expand the U.S. military presence in Australia, positioning more U.S. personnel and equipment there, and increasing American access to bases. About 250 U.S. Marines will begin a rotation in northern Australia starting next year, with a full force of 2,500 military personnel staffing up over the next several years.

Obama called the deployment "significant," and said it would build capacity and cooperation between the U.S. and Australia. U.S. officials were careful to emphasize that the pact was not an attempt to create a permanent American military presence in Australia.

"It also allows us to meet the demands of a



lot of partners in the region that want to feel that they're getting the training, they're getting the exercises, and that we have the presence that's necessary to maintain the security architecture in the region," Obama said.

The president spoke shortly after arriving in the Australian capital, his second stop on a nine-day tour of the Asia-Pacific region. After a 10-hour flight from Honolulu, where he hosted an economic summit, Obama headed straight into meetings with Gillard.

On Thursday, Obama will address the Australian Parliament, then fly to the northern city of Darwin, where some of the Marines

deploying to Australia next year will be based.

During his news conference with Gillard, the president sidestepped questions about whether the security agreement was aimed at containing China. But he said the U.S. would keep sending a clear message that China needs to accept the responsibilities that come with being a world power.

"It's important for them to play by the rules of the road," he said.

And he insisted that the U.S. is not fearful of China's rise. "I think the notion that we fear China is mistaken. The notion that we're looking to exclude China is mistaken,"

he said.

China was immediately leery of the prospect of an expanded U.S. military presence in Australia. Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Weimin said Wednesday that it was worth discussing whether the plan was in line with the common interests of the international community.

Obama national security aide Ben Rhodes said the agreement was not only appropriate, but also a response to the demand from nations in the region that have signaled they want the U.S. to be present.

The U.S. and smaller Asian nations have grown increasingly concerned about China claiming dominion over vast areas of the Pacific that the U.S. considers international waters, and reigniting old territorial disputes, including confrontations over the South China Sea. China's defense spending has increased threefold since the 1990s to about \$160 billion last year, and its military has recently tested a new stealth jet fighter and launched its first aircraft carrier. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has said that the goal of the new security pact is to signal that the U.S. and Australia will stick together in face of any threats.

Technology

Facebook warns of recent wave of spam



(AP)—A recent wave of spam flooding Facebook users' pages with graphic pictures depicting inappropriate photos and violence has mostly been stopped, but the social networking site said Wednesday that people need to remain vigilant to keep their accounts from being hijacked.

Facebook in Germany said the latest attack tricked users into pasting and executing malicious JavaScript in their browser URL bar, exploiting a browser vulnerability that caused them to unknowingly share the content, according to a statement to news agency dapt.

According to Facebook, no user data or accounts were compromised during the attack.

Facebook said it built enforcement mechanisms to quickly shut down the malicious pages and accounts that attempt to exploit the vulnerability.

Meantime, Facebook warned users to never cut and paste unknown code into a browser's address bar, and to always use an up-to-date browser, as well as to flag and report any suspicious content.

Twitter



Justin Bieber

@online: Justin Bieber Flips the Bird in London conli.net/vErWLM



Miley Cyrus & Demi Lovato

@online: Miley Cyrus & Demi Lovato Team Up on Twitter to Fight Haters, Defend Curvy Women conli.net/u8wiQa



Gareth Bale

@goal_intl: Sandro Rosell: Barcelona will never pay €40m for Tottenham Hotspur's Gareth Bale: The Catalans... bit.ly/spSqsB #football #soccer



Kim Kardashian

@celebrainwreck: Kim Kardashian divorce: Star gushes about Kris Humphries weeks before split bit.ly/uli5JX



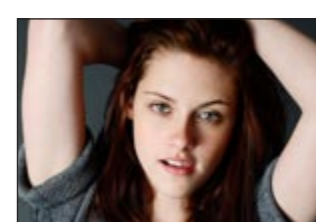
Kelly Brook

@HolyMolyNews: Kelly Brook posts a nude picture of herself on Twitter, not that you can tell goo.gl/aynlq #KellyBrook #KellyBrooknaked



Google+

@DailyHealthTips: Now you can follow Daily Health Tips on Google+ as well. plus.google.com/10689170880536



Kristen Stewart

@celebrainwreck: Kristen Stewart Offered Lead Female Role In Akira bit.ly/sXVebJ

Sport



Indonesia's Amri falls from the wall during the men's lead final in sport climbing at the 26th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in Palembang, South Sumatera, Indonesia, Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2011. (AP Photo)

Politics

US HIP-HOP DIPLOMACY HITS SPEED BUMP IN PAKISTAN

(AP)—A U.S. attempt to smooth relations with Pakistan using a bit of hip-hop diplomacy hit a speed bump Wednesday when the Pakistani military briefly detained an American music group accused of taking photographs of sensitive installations.

The F.E.W. Collective, a hip-hop group from Chicago on a U.S.-sponsored tour of Pakistan, was traveling in embassy vehicles on a public road in Rawalpindi, a garrison town just outside the capital Islamabad, when the incident occurred, the U.S. Embassy said.

Rawalpindi hosts the headquarters of the Pakistani army, but the U.S. Embassy said no sensitive installations were visible from the vehicle when the



group was pulled over. One of the band members may have been taking pictures, but the group was eventually released, it said.

"The performer was not aware of restrictions placed on photography in or near the cantonment, and had no intention of taking photo-

graphs of sensitive Pakistani government or military installations," the embassy said.

Local TV footage showed three large SUVs surrounded by Pakistani police and military personnel before they were allowed to pull away.

The F.E.W. Collective is one of several American music groups that the U.S. Embassy has brought to Pakistan this year as part of its cultural diplomacy efforts. Others have included a jazz quartet and a country rock band.

The U.S. has given Pakistan billions of dollars in military and civilian aid over the last decade, but the country is still highly unpopular among average Pakistanis.

Health

UK doctors call for ban on smoking in cars



(AP)—The British Medical Association is calling on the government to ban smoking at all times in cars, a step that would go beyond regulations elsewhere.

In research released on Wednesday, the group that represents U.K. doctors said the confined environment in cars exposes drivers and passengers to 23 times more toxins than a smoky bar. Children are particularly vulnerable to second-hand smoke since they absorb more pollutants. Smoke can linger in cars long after cigarettes have been smoked.

In countries including Australia, Canada, and parts of the U.S., smoking in cars is banned when children are present. In the U.K., smoking in public vehicles like buses and trains is banned but there is no law against smoking in private cars.

Dr. Vivienne Nathanson of the association said Wednesday that the government should now take a "bold and courageous step."

Entertainment

'Twilight' fever hits London for UK premiere



(AP)—London fans are in the grip of "Twilight" fever ahead of the U.K. premiere of "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1."

But so-called Twihards hoping for a glimpse of Kristen Stewart, who plays the love-besotted teen Bella Swan, will be disappointed.

Instead they will get to see Robert Pattinson, the British actor who stars as her vampire sweetheart Edward Cullen, Taylor Lautner, who as werewolf Jacob Black is her best friend and director Bill Condon before the screening at the Westfield shopping center in Stratford City. The first "Twilight" movie was released in 2008. This fourth film finally sees Bella marry her vampire boyfriend.

The film opens in the U.K. on Friday.