

TEXTO

Why Vietnam wants US weapons

As US President Barack Obama announced the lifting of the decades-long embargo on sales of lethal weapons to Vietnam, he seemed at pains to explain the decision "was not based on China or any other considerations".

Yet his mention of China reveals some of the greatest security concerns brewing in Hanoi.

Since a brief but bloody border war in 1979 that cost thousands of lives, Vietnam-China relations have been bumpy to say the least. From being Vietnam's biggest ally, ironically, in the war against the United States, China has increasingly been seen as a dominant, and at times, threatening neighbour.

Recent tensions in the South China Sea have added to the growing mistrust. Vietnam protests against what it sees as excessive Chinese maritime claims and supports the court case brought against China by the Philippines. Not only does China's growing assertiveness in the area challenge Vietnam's sovereignty, it could greatly affect its fishery, oil and gas activities, too.

It is no secret that Vietnam is trying to boost its maritime defensive capability. Its largest arms contract to date with a foreign country was the \$2bn purchase of six kilo-class submarines from Russia.

A large number of patrol and missile ships and fighter jets have also been purchased from Russia, as Vietnam's military spending more than doubled between 2004 and 2013. It is now the eighth largest importer of weapons in the world.

In the last few years Hanoi has also sought to expand its military ties with other countries, too, forging partnerships with Spain, the Netherlands and Israel to name a few.

Now the arms embargo has been lifted, Vietnam will be able to access the latest technologies and equipment the US military has to offer.

Fonte: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-36360005>

TEXTO – TRADUÇÃO LIVRE

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Por que o Vietnã quer armas dos Estados Unidos

As US President Barack Obama announced the lifting of the decades-long embargo on sales of lethal weapons to Vietnam, he seemed at pains to explain the decision "was not based on China or any other considerations".

Quando o Presidente dos Estados Unidos Barack Obama anunciou o levantamento do embargo de décadas sobre vendas de armas letais para o Vietnã, ele parecia aflito para explicar que a decisão "não foi baseada sobre a China ou qualquer outras considerações".

Yet his mention of China reveals some of the greatest security concerns brewing in Hanoi.

No entanto, sua menção à China revela alguma das maiores preocupações de segurança fermentando em Hanoi.

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Desde uma breve, mas sangrenta guerra de fronteira em 1979 que custou milhares de vidas, as relações Vietnã-China têm estado acidentada para dizer o mínimo. De ser o maior aliado do Vietnã, ironicamente, na guerra contra os Estados Unidos, a China tem sido vista cada vez mais como um dominante, e às vezes, ameaçando o vizinho.

Recent tensions in the South China Sea have added to the growing mistrust. Vietnam protests against what it sees as excessive Chinese maritime claims and supports the court case brought against China by the Philippines. Not only does China's growing assertiveness in the area challenge Vietnam's sovereignty, it could greatly affect its fishery, oil and gas activities, too.

Recentes tensões no Sul do Mar da China têm acrescentado uma desconfiança crescente. O Vietnã protesta contra o que ele vê como excessivas reclamações marítimas chinesas e apóia o processo trazido contra a China pelas Filipinas. Não somente a assertividade crescente da China na área desafia a soberania do Vietnã, ela poderia afetar significativamente as suas atividades de pesca, petróleo e gás, também.

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Não é segredo que o Vietnã está tentando aumentar sua capacidade defensiva marítima. Seu maior contrato de armas comprometido com um país estrangeiro foi de \$2bn na compra de seis submarinos "kilo-class" da Rússia.

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Um grande número de navios de patrulha e mísseis e aviões de combate também foram comprados da Rússia, enquanto o gasto militar do Vietnã mais que dobrou entre 2004 e 2013. Ele é agora o oitavo maior importador de armas do mundo.

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Nos últimos anos, Hanoi também tem procurado expandir seus laços militares com outros países, forjando parcerias com Espanha, Holanda e Israel para citar alguns.

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Agora, o embargo das armas foi levantado, o Vietnã estará apto a acessar as últimas tecnologias e equipamentos que os militares dos Estados Unidos têm para oferecer.