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PHILIPPINES AGREES TO ALLOW US WIDER ACCESS TO MILITARY BASES

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Al Jazeera (2 February 2023)

Move comes amid concerns about Chinas assertiveness in the disputed South China Sea and over self-ruled Taiwan.

The Philippines and the United States have agreed to expand their defence pact, with US troops allowed access to four more military bases in the Southeast Asian nation, according to a joint statement from the two countries defence departments.

The agreement was unveiled during a visit to Manila by US Defense Secretary, Lloyd Austin, during which he held talks with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, who took office last year.

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