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### **Gas Strategies Group**

10 Saint Bride Street  
London UK  
EC4A 4AD

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T: +44(0) 20 7332 9900  
W: [www.gasstrategies.com](http://www.gasstrategies.com)  
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### **Editorials**

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# Manila claims Chinese pledge over disputed South China Sea exploration

The Philippines claims it has been assured by Beijing that China will not occupy new territory in the disputed South China Sea, and that negotiations towards a commercial deal to explore and exploit hydrocarbons in the disputed areas of the sea are ongoing.

The Philippine defence minister Delfin Lorenzana and foreign secretary Alan Peter Cayetano broke the news on Wednesday, according to local reports.

"The Chinese will not occupy ...



### **Consulting**

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