

Hi. I am Counselor Li with the Chinese Embassy in the US. I am reaching out to express our grave concern regarding a CODEL including Congressman Guy Reschenthaler planing to visit Taiwan on April 6. If so, it will seriously violate the one-China principle, the provisions of the three Sino-US joint communique, severely interfere with China's domestic affairs, and send a wrong signal to the separatist forces in Taiwan. I am writing to express the Chinese side's deep concern and firm opposition to this possible move.

The Taiwan question is at the very core of China's core interests, the bedrock of the political foundation of China-U.S. relations, and the first red line that must not be crossed in China-U.S. relations. From Day One since China and the US established diplomatic relations, the United States has been committed to not developing official relations with Taiwan. Congress as part of the US Government and lawmakers as elected officials, are inherently obliged to strictly observe the one-China policy of the US government and refrain from having any official exchanges with China's Taiwan region. Otherwise, it is serious political provocations, sends out a wrong signal to the "Taiwan independence" separatist forces, and seriously undermines the China-U.S. relations and the peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

The Chinese side has always committed to the peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. However, the tension across the Taiwan Strait is escalating, and the prospect of peace across the Taiwan Strait is seriously threatened. The root cause of the current situation is that the one-China principle has been severely undermined. Tsai Ing-wen's authorities reject the "1992 Consensus" that reflects the one-China principle, advance "Taiwan independence" in a disguised and incremental way, and attempt to seek independence with the support of the U.S. If the US side truly hopes that the Taiwan Strait remains peaceful and stable, the first and foremost thing for the US to do is to oppose and contain "Taiwan independence" separatist forces.

Former Speaker Pelosi's visit to Taiwan last year triggered a serious crisis in the China-U.S relationship, and the lessons should be learned. The strategic community in the US and some members of Congress have reflected on this, believing that the US's provocation to the Chinese side on the Taiwan question and attempts to ditch the one-China policy are not in the US interests. People in Taiwan are also deeply concerned about the situation in the Taiwan Strait, and do not want the peace in the Taiwan Strait to be destroyed by the selfish interests of individual politicians.

The Taiwan question concerns China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is close to the hearts of the 1.4 billion Chinese people. China has no room for compromise on this issue. We urge the US side to refrain from organizing CODEL to visit Taiwan, and stop all forms of official interaction with Taiwan. We urge the US side not to support "Taiwan independence" separatist forces, not to fudge and hollow out the one-China principle, so as to avoid furthering the tension across the Taiwan Strait.

I hope you could kindly pass along the above position to Congressman Guy Reschenthaler. And I look forward to an opportunity to exchange views with you on a wide range of issues of mutual interest.

Respectfully,
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Counsellor

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