



Democratic Progressive Party Mission in the U.S.

For immediate release
Nov. 26, 2019

President Tsai: Taiwan and the US stand up for Hong Kong democracy

During a meeting with US Congressmen Bill Flores and Guy Reschenthaler on the morning of November 26, President Tsai Ing-wen stated that the situation in Hong Kong demonstrates the importance of Taiwan and the United States' joint defense of free, democratic values. As the strategic forefront of the Indo-Pacific region, she said, Taiwan is the first line of defense for democratic values. We will continue to strengthen our cooperation with the United States in all fields, so that we can make greater contributions to regional stability, prosperity, and development, she stated.

A translation of the president's remarks follows:

I still remember when Congressman Flores came to Taiwan in 2016 right after I took office. It is wonderful to see you again. I also want to welcome Congressman Reschenthaler on his first visit to Taiwan. Meeting with all of you before Thanksgiving makes this feel like a reunion of friends.

I want to personally thank both of you for your support for Taiwan. Congressman Flores is a member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, and he has lent strong support to bills supporting Taiwan, including our participation in international organizations and the signing of a bilateral trade agreement between Taiwan and the United States.

Since taking office earlier this year, Congressman Reschenthaler has staunchly supported Taiwan as well. In addition to signing the TAIPEI Act (Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative Act) and the Taiwan Assurance Act, he has also voted in support of Taiwan-friendly resolutions. Thanks to your hard work and the efforts of many others, the Taiwan-US partnership has grown stronger across the board.

In a speech last month, Vice President Mike Pence said that the United States has "stood by Taiwan in defense of her hard-won freedoms." I would like to take this opportunity to say that Taiwan will be a steadfast partner to the United States.

As the strategic forefront of the Indo-Pacific region, Taiwan is the first line of defense for democratic values. Over the past months, the people of Hong Kong have continued to pursue freedom and democracy, only to be met with violent suppression. The worsening situation in

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Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.*

Hong Kong only further demonstrates the importance of Taiwan and the United States' joint defense of free, democratic values.

We have also noted that the US House and Senate recently passed a bill supporting human rights and democracy in Hong Kong. This effort proves that these core values are not split along party lines. They are the overwhelming consensus of all democratic countries.

This year, Taiwan and the United States hosted the first-ever Pacific Islands Dialogue. We will continue to strengthen our cooperation with the United States in all fields, so that we can make greater contributions to regional stability, prosperity, and development.

Taiwan-US relations enjoy strong bipartisan support in the United States. I hope that you will continue to support Taiwan, and help bring our partnership to a new level.

<https://english.president.gov.tw/News/5921>

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Democratic Progressive Party Mission in the U.S.

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Forging a united, democratic, and robust Taiwan

President Tsai's remarks on cross-strait relations in pre-election policy presentation broadcast

President Tsai Ing-wen participated today in a televised policy presentation, alongside the two other candidates for Taiwan's presidential election to be held on January 11, 2020. The following is a translation of the her remarks on cross-strait relations made during the broadcast.

A president must safeguard the national interest in the midst of the changing environment. As the tension rise between the U.S. and China, Taiwan must make the correct choice in accordance with its own national interest. China's creeping encroachment poses a severe challenge, and the possibility of relying on strategic ambiguity is declining. The decision made by a national leader must be based on the national interest, and the leader of Taiwan must safeguard Taiwan's sovereignty, democracy, and freedom. We stand with the mainstream international society not because of the personal preference of the leader, but because this is the necessary choice dictated by the national interest and values. There is no room for ambiguity or hesitation.

My approach for managing the cross-strait question has been very clear: We do not yield in the face of pressure, nor do we engage in provocation when we receive support, thus sustaining Taiwan's sovereignty while stabilizing the cross-strait situation and gaining international affirmation. Taiwan is on the front line of the confrontation in the Western Pacific. Through three years of our efforts, it has become recognized by the entire world as the most stable, most reliable democratic partner in Asia.

But China has continued to target Taiwan with military intimidation, brainwashing via economic enticements, diplomatic suppression, and social penetration. In January, it even proposed a "Taiwan version" of the 'one country, two systems' formula. Hong Kong's predicament has made it very clear to everyone that democracy and authoritarianism are in conflict, and these two systems cannot coexist in one country. Taiwan absolutely cannot accept one country, two systems; on this point, my position has been clearer than anyone.

In order to protect national sovereignty and reject one country, two systems, we must strengthen our own capabilities. Thus, over the past three years, we have undertaken intense cooperation with like-minded countries, as well as enhancing Taiwan's capacity to defend itself. These three years have seen the best Taiwan-U.S. relations in history, Taiwan-Japan relations are much improved, and our relations with Europe are also experiencing demonstrable growth. International support for Taiwan's participation in international organizations is at a historic high. At the same time, we have made a concerted effort to strengthen our integration into the global economy, and we can see fruits of this in the advancements of the New Southbound Policy, and in the upgrading of our cooperation with important economic and trade partners around the world.

We have worked hard to strengthen Taiwan's self-defense capability, gradually raising the defense budget. Aside from necessary arms sales, plans for the domestic production of jet trainers and naval vessels are also ongoing. The indigenous submarine program, which every one of my predecessors aspired to but never managed to achieve, has finally been initiated during my term.

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At the same time, we have increased the benefits to our military service members and upgraded the equipment provided to our troops, allowing our soldiers to serve with more dignity and greater confidence. Though I have never served in the military, I have devoted greater attention to the state of Taiwan's armed forces than any previous president in our democratic history.

However, to safeguard sovereignty and protect the nation, the most critical factor is whether the people are united. And the precondition for a united population is a shared understanding of our shared situation. Here I would like to put forward four understandings, of which Mr. Han Kuo-yu should take special note:

First, we must understand that **China is the one damaging the status quo in the Taiwan Strait**. The whole world recognizes that the one who is unilaterally changing the cross-strait status quo is the PRC, not Taiwan. As China rises, it is intent on rearranging the global order, and many countries are very wary of this phenomenon.

Second, **China is exploiting the 1992 consensus to hollow out the Republic of China**. I know that some people in Taiwan cannot discern the changing trends, and still wish to rely on the illusory “1992 consensus” to deal with the pressures from the other side of the Strait. But within the so-called “1992 consensus” that they have recognized, “one China” is getting bigger and bigger as a result of China’s manipulations, while “different interpretations” gets smaller and smaller, to the point of having no space left at all. It is through this process that the Republic of China is being hollowed out.

Third, **we cannot trade away our sovereignty for short-term economic gain**. We want to see positive exchanges between the two sides of the Strait and have never restricted normal cross-strait interactions. But as the president of the Republic of China, I cannot bargain away national sovereignty for short term economic benefits, nor can I trade our sovereignty for the promise of economic development or diplomatic space.

Fourth, we have become alert to the reality that **China is presently penetrating and infiltrating Taiwan’s entire society**. China uses fake news, united front subversion, and many other tactics to expand its influence within Taiwan. Recently we have seen several cases involving CCP spies, including infiltration of networks of retired and active duty military service members, and even cases involving retired generals. These have all attracted a high degree of attention among our fellow citizens. Our imperative of constructing a comprehensive national security network is a very urgent matter indeed, and one that faces a very time frame. The five national security Acts and the Anti-Infiltration bill that we have put forward will be the last piece in the puzzle of the comprehensive national security net.

Going forward, we will continue to strengthen our values-based connections with the world, forging ties with like-minded countries on the basis of a “Taiwan model” of sustainability, accountability, and mutual benefit.

Over the next four years, I will continue to consolidate the shared understanding of the international situation among the citizens of Taiwan. Only by consolidating unity and a shared understanding can we avoid being divided and being swayed from our core values; and only through reaching a shared consensus can we achieve unity.

What China fears most is a united Taiwan, a democratic Taiwan, a robust Taiwan. Everything that I have done over the past three years—and would do in the next four—is aimed at making Taiwan more united, more democratic, and more robust. In the face of rapid change, only by strengthening our resolve, fortifying our national capacity, and uniting Taiwan can we win broad international support and achieve progress amidst stability.

總統也要在變局中確保國家利益，美中矛盾持續升高，台灣必須依自己照國家利益做出正確選擇。中國節節進逼，挑戰是嚴峻的，戰略模糊的可能性是越來越低。一個國家領導人的選擇，也必須要基於國家的利益，身為國家的

領導人，必須捍衛台灣主權和民主自由。我們跟主流國際社會在一起，不是因為個人偏好，而是因為這是基於國家利益跟價值理念的必然選擇，沒有模糊或是猶豫的空間。

兩岸問題上，我處理的方式很清楚，我們遇到壓力不屈服，得到支持不冒進，撐住台灣的主權，穩住兩岸的情勢，同時贏得國際肯定。台灣在西太平洋的戰鍊是在第一線，經過三年多的努力，已經成為全世界公認亞太地區最穩定、最值得信賴的民主夥伴。

但中國對台灣持續進行武力的威脅、經濟的洗腦、還有外交的打壓、以及社會的滲透，今年1月還提出一國兩制台灣方案。香港的情況，讓我們大家都清楚地看到，民主跟威權是衝突的，這兩個制度不可能共存在一個國家。台灣絕對不可能接受一國兩制，這點我的立場比誰都還要清楚。

為了保護國家主權，對一國兩制說不，我們必須要強化自己的實力，因此在過去三年，我們和理念相近的國家積極合作，也強化台灣自我防禦能力。這三年多來台美關係在史上是最好的狀態，台日關係比以前更好，對歐關係也顯著成長，各國支持台灣加入國際組織的聲量創下歷史新高。同時我們致力加強和全球經濟的連結，新南向政策的開展，國際重要經貿合作夥伴的關係提升，我們都看到初步成果。

我們也努力強化台灣自我防衛能力，也逐年增加國防預算，除了必要軍購，國機國造，國艦國造計畫都在進行，歷任總統都想做卻沒做到的潛艦，在我任內開始建造。

同時我們提高了軍人待遇、部隊裝備改善，讓國軍更有尊嚴，更有戰力。我雖然沒有當過兵，但是自從有民選總統以來，我比誰、比任何總統都重視國防。

守護主權，保護國家，最重要的是人民有沒有團結，團結的前提是對現在情勢有共同認知。這裡有四個認知，要請韓國瑜先生特別注意。

第一個，我們要認知破壞臺海現狀的是中國。全世界都知道片面改變台海現狀的是中國不是台灣，中國正在崛起，試圖改變世界秩序，很多國家對這個現象都充滿戒心。

第二個認知是，中國利用九二共識正在掏空中華民國，我知道台灣還有人無法感受到局勢變化，還要用虛幻的九二共識附從在對岸的壓力之下，但是在中國操縱之下，他們所認定的所謂的九二共識之中，一中是越來越大，各表是越來越小，甚至是沒有空間，中華民國在這過程中正在被掏空。

第三個認知是，我們不能以主權交換短期的經濟利益。我們樂見兩岸關係良性互動，我們也從未緊縮過兩岸正常互動，但身為中華民國總統，我不能拿主權交換短期經濟利益，我也不能拿主權交換經濟發展或是外交空間，都不能拿主權交換。

第四個認知是，我們要警覺到中國正在全面滲透，滲透台灣的社會，過去的經驗看出來，中國會利用假訊息、統戰滲透、各式各樣的手法，擴大對台灣社會的影響。近期我們看到幾個共諜案，甚至是退役的、現役的軍人網絡的滲透，甚至有退將的涉案，都引起國人高度重視。我們要建構一個國家安全網，確實是一個非常要緊的事情，也有時間上的很大的壓力。

那我們推出的國安五法，反滲透法，將是國安安全網的最後一個拼圖。

未來我們將繼續在國際上強化價值連結，以永續、負責、互惠互利的台灣模式，來加強和理念相近國家之間的連結，跟友邦全面性的合作。

未來四年，我也會繼續凝聚國人對於所處情勢的共同認知，促成團結，有共同認知才不會被分化，失去立場，有共同認知才會團結。

中國，最害怕的是台灣人的團結，中國最害怕台灣的民主，中國最害怕的是台灣的壯大。3年多來我做的一切，以及未來四年多，都是讓台灣更團結、更民主、更壯大。

面對激烈的變局只有堅定立場，強化國力，團結台灣，才能得到更廣泛的國際支持，讓國家在穩定中前進。

Broadcast video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fueoCSkrEFk>

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