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民主進步黨
Democratic Progressive Party, Taiwan

Dispatch from Milwaukee



July 16h, 2024

The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) has been invited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to join a bipartisan delegation to the 2024 Republican National Convention held in Milwaukee, U.S.A., from July

15th to 18th. The DPP delegation, led by the Chairman's Special Assistant Chen Min-jen (陳明真), New Taipei City Councilor Chen Nai-yu (陳乃瑜), Kaohsiung City Councilor Chiu Chun-Hsien (邱俊憲), Director of the DPP Youth Department Juan Chun-ta (阮俊達), and Director of the DPP Mission in the United States Sun-wen Iris Shaw (蕭舜文), began their visit on July 15th. The DPP also plans to participate in the Democratic National Convention in August, expecting to include legislators as the Legislative Yuan will be in recess.

The first day of the Republican National Convention was marked by a lively atmosphere and strict security. In the morning, the delegation attended a policy seminar at The Heritage Foundation. In the afternoon, they participated in a welcome reception hosted by the U.S. Ambassador Yui Tah-ray (俞大瀟), interacting with numerous pro-Taiwan politicians who reiterated the U.S. commitment to defending Taiwan's democratic freedoms. Following the announcement of J.D. Vance as Donald Trump's vice presidential running mate, Trump and Vance made an appearance at the convention, elevating the atmosphere to its peak.

Several prominent Republican figures attended the Ambassador's welcome reception, including former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, former Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Marie Royce, Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK), House Republican Conference Secretary Lisa McClain (R-MI), Chairman of the House Special Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party John Moolenaar (R-MI), Representative Andy Barr (R-KY), Representative Mark Alford (R-MO), Representative Tom Tiffany (R-WI), Representative Robert Aderholt (R-AL), Representative Celeste Maloy (R-UT), and Lanhee Chen, policy advisor to former Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney.

Senator Sullivan, who served in the U.S. Seventh Fleet during the 1996 Taiwan Strait missile crisis, highlighted the importance of a clear U.S. commitment to Taiwan, thanking the delegation for observing America's vibrant democratic electoral activities, noting that democracy, although sometimes chaotic, is far better than the dictatorship across the strait in China. Representative Alford, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, emphasized that the election is critical for international and Taiwan Strait security, stating

that Trump would ensure deterrence against China, continue arms sales to Taiwan, and demonstrate a Reaganesque “peace through strength” approach to dictators in China and Russia.

Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo also reiterated his firm stance supporting Taiwan. Pompeo noted his wholehearted belief that Taiwan and the Pacific region are central to the well-being of the American people. He welcomed the delegation to experience the Republican convention. Pompeo stated that although the three different parties within the delegation may have diverse views, it would strengthen their country, an essentiality for the United States to help such freedoms succeed. He looks forward to further cooperation between the United States and Taiwan to ensure democracy prevails in more places, allowing future generations to enjoy a lively and lovely Taiwan.

Chen Min-jen, the former legislator and special assistant to the chairman, mentioned that it is a great honor to attend the Republican National Convention as the head of the Taiwanese bipartisan delegation. He expressed deep gratitude for America’s consistent strong support for Taiwan. The U.S. commitment to economic prosperity, technological advancement, defense capabilities, education, and cultural initiatives have been crucial for Taiwan’s growth and security.

Chen Min-jen shared that nearly 250 years ago, America’s Founding Fathers established a nation based on the principles of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” The United States was the first country to recognize individual rights for its people, setting an example for nations worldwide. Inspired by this enduring legacy, democracy and freedom form the foundation of Taiwan’s identity today. Amid significant geopolitical challenges, Taiwan and the United States work closely to maintain regional security and promote international cooperation.

Iris Shaw, Director of the DPP Mission in the United States, stated that the delegation is interested in observing the U.S. elections mainly to understand their impact on U.S.-Taiwan relations, “including cooperation in defense security and economic trade, as well as international participation.” In addition to helping grow U.S.-Taiwan relations, the delegation has another important purpose in attending

the convention: to express Taiwan's bipartisan support for American democracy.

“During our elections last year, the United States also showed us significant bipartisan support,” Shaw said. “Democratic countries are supposed to support each other. Our bipartisan delegation is here this week for RNC and next month in Chicago for DNC to show our strong support and wish the U.S. elections will proceed smoothly.”

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