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民主進步黨
Democratic Progressive Party, Taiwan

Dispatch from Milwaukee Day 2



July 17th, 2024

The 2024 Republican National Convention entered its second day (July 16th). Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) 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), participated in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cross-party delegation trip. They interacted with several Taiwan-friendly officials from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada, focusing on security issues.

In the morning, the delegation, along with the U.S. Ambassador Yui Tah-ray (俞大瀟), attended a seminar luncheon hosted by the

International Republican Institute (IRI). IRI Board Chairman and U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), and former White House National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien delivered speeches, addressing the need to respond to the challenges posed by China, emphasize national defense, and revitalize industries, echoing the recently passed Republican Party platform. O'Brien particularly stressed that the United States must adopt former President Reagan's "peace through strength" approach to win the competition against China, especially in the technology and energy sectors.

The delegation utilized the pre- and post-seminar mingling sessions to greet and interact with officials from the European Union, Canada, and Latin American embassies in the United States, and to express gratitude to several Taiwan-friendly officials. The delegation personally thanked Robert O'Brien, who visited Taiwan after stepping down and received the Order of Brilliant Star with Grand Cordon from former President Tsai Ing-wen (蔡英文), and former British Prime Minister Liz Truss, who also visited Taiwan post-office. The delegation conveyed their appreciation for their support for Taiwan and expressed hope for future visits.

The delegation also greeted Cory Gardner, former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asia, who was a key proponent of the TAIPEI Act and has visited Taiwan multiple times. Gardner warmly interacted with the DPP representatives, expressing fond memories and greetings to Taiwan. Former chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, Ted Yoho, who frequently wrote and proposed measures supporting Taiwan, also joyfully reminisced with the delegation and expressed concern for Taiwan. Canadian Senator Michael MacDonald, co-chair of the Taiwan-Canada Parliamentary Friendship Group, proactively shared his observations on Taiwan's White Terror history and discussed the promotion of the Canada-Taiwan Relations Framework Act.

Led by delegation head Chen Min-jen, the group met with Edith Jorge-Tuñón, Deputy Executive Director of the Republican State Leadership Committee (RSLC), to exchange views on congressional election analysis, AI applications in election campaigns, and how to attract youth to politics. In the evening, they attended the Republican National

Convention venue to watch speeches by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley. The speeches focused on the theme “Make America Safe Once Again.” Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and vice-presidential candidate J.D. Vance were also in attendance, enhancing the enthusiastic atmosphere of the crowd.

Iris Shaw, Director of the DPP Mission in the United States, pointed out that the successful participation of the cross-party delegation in Milwaukee was due to the efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the colleagues at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO). Shaw emphasized that the friendly relations between Taiwan and the United States are not a short-term phenomenon but the result of long-term efforts by the ruling team, frontline diplomats, and civil organizations. She highlighted that the Taiwan-friendly officials the delegation interacted with today have visited Taiwan in recent years under the leadership of former President Tsai Ing-wen or President Lai Ching-te, leaving a deep impression and demonstrating a steadfast stance in support of Taiwan. Shaw expressed hope for continued in-depth exchanges with cross-party and cross-sector friends in the United States to further deepen Taiwan-U.S. relations.

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