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民主進步黨
Democratic Progressive Party of Taiwan

Taiwan's Commitment to Peace and Security:
Self-Defense is Not Aggression



May 23rd, 2025

Taiwan has been the subject of recent misleading narratives circulating in Washington policy circles. These claims wrongly portray Taiwan's defensive actions as political provocation, when in fact they are a response to acute growing threats from Beijing. As we mark the anniversary of President Lai Ching-te's inauguration, it is essential to reaffirm Taiwan's commitment to

peace, stability, and partnership with the United States and other democratic allies. In this light, we hope to highlight the main ideas from the crux of Taiwan Presidential Office Spokesperson Wen Lii's recent article in The Washington Times:

1. Taiwan is maintaining the status quo.

President Lai upholds the Republic of China constitutional framework and consistently expresses a willingness to engage in dialogue with Beijing based on parity and dignity. Taiwan is not pushing for independence nor provoking conflict.

2. Defensive measures are necessary and grounded in law.

Beijing has escalated espionage, cyber intrusions, and military intimidation against Taiwan. In response, Taiwan is strengthening its legal and institutional frameworks, including President Lai's proposal of 17 strategies to combat Chinese espionage and infiltration. These proposed reforms include reinstating a military trial system for active-duty military personnel. President Lai's designation of China as a "foreign hostile force" is clearly defined under Taiwan's 2020 Anti-Infiltration Act. China's belligerent actions against Taiwan necessitate such a designation, as Taiwan has seen a threefold increase in espionage prosecutions since 2021, which indicates escalating Chinese influence operations. In other words, Taiwan's actions represent a legitimate national security response to the escalating Chinese pressure against Taiwanese institutions, society, and democracy.

3. "History has shown the world that appeasement invites aggression."

Beijing's military exercises are expanding across the Western Pacific, targeting not just Taiwan but the broader regional order. Taiwan's decision to invest in its security, including a near doubling of its defense budget since 2016, is about deterrence and peace through strength.

Taiwan needs global partnerships rather than misplaced criticism. Suggesting Taiwan's actions are antagonistic simply amplifies Chinese disinformation and undermines a democratic partner facing existential threats. Taiwan remains one of the freest nations in Asia. The people of Taiwan are committed to peace, but they will not sacrifice their freedom. Now is the time to stand with Taiwan,

not inveigh against moves to strengthen Taiwan's self-defense.

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