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**民主進步黨**  
Democratic Progressive Party, Taiwan

## China Influence Tracker (VII)

### 不是單純表態 而是系統動員!!

拒絕話語滲透、守護台灣主權

- 多位台灣藝人在中國軍演、國慶、兩會等時點，集體轉貼統戰文宣、高喊「祖國萬歲」
- 從「我愛你中國」到「中國台灣藝人」，話語同步、節奏一致，不再是偶發，而是系統性操作！
- 政府啟動調查，不為打壓言論自由，而是守住民主底線、劃清與極權的界線！！

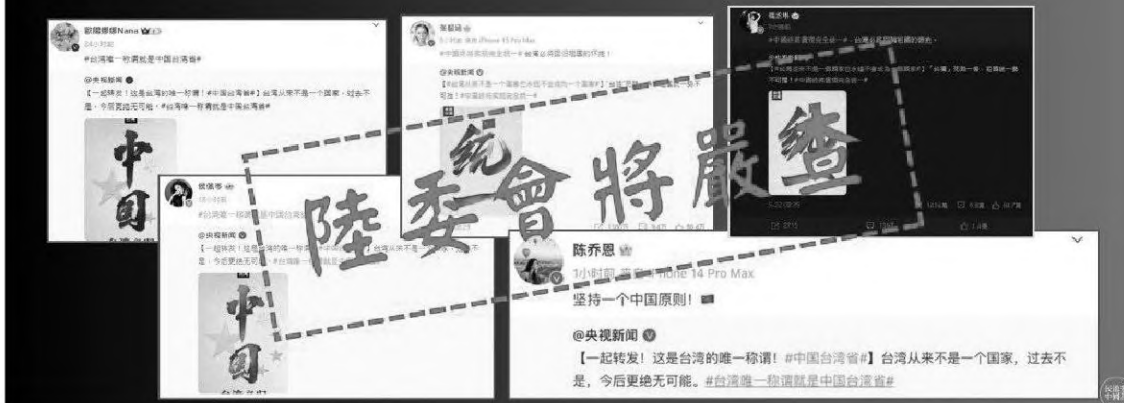


Photo: DPP China Affairs Department

*May 30th, 2025*

In collaboration with the DPP China Affairs Department, the latest DPP U.S. Mission report provides key updates on the evolving cross-strait situation, detailing the escalation of China's military intimidation, gray zone activities, cognitive warfare, and United Front infiltration targeting Taiwan. The report further outlines Taiwan's policy responses, national security reforms, and international reactions. Enclosed are the recent developments, offering a comprehensive overview of the current threat landscape, Taiwan's countermeasures, and emerging public opinion trends shaping the strategic environment.

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## **■ Cross-Strait Relations and Policy Developments**

### **1. Cross-Strait Policy Direction**

As President Lai Ching-te marked his first year anniversary in office, he was interviewed by Wealth Magazine and stated that labeling China as a "foreign hostile force" was "unavoidable and necessary" in order to help the citizens of Taiwan understand the issue and prepare for a long-term stable outcome. He stated that "There is no longer any room for strategic ambiguity for Taiwan" in the current international situation.

In interviews prior to the May 20 anniversary of his inauguration, President Lai gave interviews to both Nikkei Asia as well as Mindy's Selection, a popular podcast. He reiterated the call for establishing a "global semiconductor non-red supply chain" and remarked that "Taiwan has never wavered" in confronting the CCP's ambitions of annexation and regional threats. He conveyed that he intends to combat the infiltration of the united front in Taiwan through the "National Security 17 Strategies," and re-stated that he is still receptive to having a dialogue with China if it is done with the conditions of "equality and dignity" noting that Taiwan society's propensity for goodwill has constantly existed and therefore "we will not give up". China's Taiwan Affairs Office responded with a harsh statement of contention, relaying that the President's hopes for cross-strait dialogue are "wishful thinking." Both actors, and

subsequent reactions, have been monitored since.

Premier Cho Jung-tai also did an interview with the Central News Agency and further stated that exchanges across the Taiwan Strait must be "healthy, orderly, risk-reduced, and de-politicized." He also highlighted Taiwan's cautious approach to "country of origin washing" type issues and its active development of legislation and measures for the "National Security 17 Strategies."

## 2. Historical Narrative Battle Over WWII and UN Resolution 2758

In the lead up to the May 8th Victory in Europe (VE) Day, both Taiwan and China engaged in competing narratives over "WWII's end." Xi Jinping contributed an article to Russian media falsely claiming that "Taiwan's return to China is part of the post-WWII international order" and that "UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 is not to be challenged." During his meeting with Putin, he called for China and Russia to "jointly promote the correct historical view of WWII." National security sources assess that this wave of CCP cognitive warfare operations leveraging "anti-fascism, WWII commemoration, and victory over Japan" will continue until the "September 3 Military Parade."

President Lai made history by becoming the first Taiwanese head of state to deliver a commemorative speech on VE Day, calling on the international community to heighten vigilance against the aggression and threats of "new totalitarian groups." The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) immediately refuted the CCP's distortion of WWII history and Resolution 2758, countering China's unilateral historical revisionism. The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed the "Taiwan International Solidarity Act," emphasizing that UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 did not address Taiwan and its people's representation rights in the UN or related organizations.

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## ■ Taiwan's National Security Responses

The MAC emphasized that amendments to the National Security Act should include provisions targeting "participants in CCP organizations in Taiwan" to prevent those who "merely participate rather than initiate" espionage activities from receiving lenient sentences. The Ministry of the Interior (MOI) has

proposed bringing legislative representatives' visits to China under regulatory oversight, triggering strong opposition from the KMT.

On April 29, marking the "20th Anniversary of the Lien-Hu Meeting," Former President Ma Ying-jeou, KMT Vice Chairman Andrew Hsia and Sean Lien leveraged the occasion to create a false narrative that "the KMT can handle cross-strait relations, reduce tensions, and bring peace," while attributing responsibility for poor cross-strait relations endangering peace to the DPP and President Lai.

A cross-strait essay competition organized by CCP party-government institutions, providing full accommodation for participants, is under investigation for violating the Cross-Strait Relations Act's provisions against "cooperative activities with CCP party-government units." Taipei First Girls Mandarin teacher Ou Kuei-chih's assistance in promoting the event has been reported, with KMT figures like Ma Ying-jeou Office Spokesperson Hsiao Hsu-tsen rallying support, attempting to reframe the issue as "the DPP government bullying teachers."

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## ■ Policy Responses

Regarding CCP cultural united front operations, the Ministry of Culture stated it would work with the MAC to monitor and investigate whether entertainers echoed CCP messaging during the May 20 period. The Communist Youth League posted "Don't be afraid," while false information circulated claiming performer Ouyang Nana was banned from entering Taiwan, potentially attempting to deliberately provoke social division, requiring close attention.

The MAC warned of increased risks for Taiwan citizens traveling to China, with missing or detained cases rising to 89. With summer vacation approaching, the MAC emphasized that cross-strait exchanges "should comply with regulations" and be mindful of potential risks. The Ministry of Education clarified it has not prohibited schools from conducting cross-strait exchanges but requires compliance with "healthy and orderly" standards and proper registration procedures.

### 1. Chinese Documentation Cases and Chinese Spouses

The Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) reported that document verification for Chinese nationals renouncing their original citizenship has handled nearly 4,000 cases this year, with May and June expected to be peak periods. A second wave will investigate whether "public officials and public school teachers" hold Chinese documentation.

Pro-China political parties and groups organized a "Support Chinese Spouses, Oppose Persecution" march, demanding "relaxed alternative documentation for Chinese spouses" and "amendment of the Cross-Strait Relations Act," while criticizing "the DPP government for treating Chinese spouses as enemies" and calling for "Lai Ching-te to step down." However, the event was primarily attended by pro-China groups with low public attention and no participation from major KMT figures. The MAC and SEF reiterated that existing measures can resolve the vast majority of cases.

Online rumors claiming "China-born applicants rejected from National Defense Medical Center" were actually malicious attempts to directly link "China birth" with "rejection from National Defense Medical Center." The Ministry of National Defense (MND) and MAC clarified that the case was due to "not having household registration for 20 years," failing to meet requirements.

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## ■ China's Actions Toward Taiwan

### 1. Before May 20

In the lead-up to May 20, President Lai's one-year anniversary in office, China's actions primarily centered around gray-zone operations and cognitive warfare, aimed at testing Taiwan's maritime and border defenses while sowing public confusion. On May 16, a Chinese father and son were intercepted after arriving on a rubber dinghy at a beach in Taoyuan, a case seen by Taiwanese officials as a possible probe of national security vulnerabilities. On May 19, a Chinese man calling himself "Shandong Kaige (山東凱哥)" released a video claiming he had landed on Taiwan's coast, prompting an investigation into whether the act was a genuine infiltration or a staged propaganda stunt. These events were described by Taiwanese officials as likely attempts to test and expose gaps in coastal defense or to conduct online influence operations under the guise of social media stunts.

Another notable pre-May 20 incident involved a Chinese student in Taipei holding up the PRC national flag in public. This symbolic act stirred public backlash and was interpreted as a low-level provocation aimed at challenging Taiwan's sovereignty and inciting domestic tension. The student was identified and warned by authorities.

## 2. After May 20

After May 20, China's pressure campaign significantly escalated, particularly through increased military activity, maritime incursions, and amplified interference in Taiwan's legal and migration systems. The MND reported multiple days of intense Chinese military maneuvers, including incursions by 23 PLA aircraft on May 22 (16 of which crossed the median line) and further activity on May 24 involving 8 aircraft and 13 naval vessels. These displays are part of Beijing's coercive signaling strategy to intimidate the Lai administration and assert its claims over Taiwan.

Simultaneously, gray-zone actions continued to intensify. On May 20, two Chinese nationals were caught attempting to illegally land on Kinmen's outlying islands. Additional incidents followed, including a Chinese man swimming with a flotation ring toward Kinmen's Dadan Island on May 23. Taiwanese officials emphasized that these incidents could be coordinated efforts to undermine Taiwan's security through low-intensity, deniable acts that erode vigilance and provoke public anxiety.

China also seized on a maritime incident involving a Taiwanese fishing boat detained by Japan in disputed waters. Although the boat was released after a deposit was paid, Beijing declared it a violation of the "rights of Chinese fishermen," including those from Taiwan under the China-Japan Fisheries Agreement. This claim, combined with diplomatic pressure on Tokyo, was an attempt to undermine Taiwan's sovereignty and interfere in Taiwan-Japan relations. MoFA pushed back firmly, stating that Taiwan and Japan have long handled such matters bilaterally and China had no standing to intervene.

In parallel, Taiwan intensified efforts to guard against united front infiltration and legal manipulation. Authorities initiated a crackdown on illegal immigration and misuse of residency benefits by Chinese and Hong Kong nationals. The National Immigration Agency required roughly 12,000 former mainland Chinese residents to submit proof they had renounced Chinese

citizenship by June 30. Meanwhile, the MAC announced reforms to the residency system for Hong Kong and Macau residents, adding a "long-term residency" phase before allowing permanent settlement, in light of rising PRC infiltration risks and demographic manipulation through migration.

Additionally, the government launched a nationwide review of public servants and educators suspected of holding Chinese documents or illegally traveling to China. The Control Yuan revealed that over the past decade, 318 public servants, including 55 high-ranking officials and 165 police officers, had traveled illegally to the mainland for non-official purposes, such as business, academic events, or personal relationships. These behaviors were deemed national security threats, prompting institutional reforms and stricter scrutiny of travel and residency links to China.

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## ■ China's Response

Two major events, the 2nd Cross-Strait Chinese Culture Summit and the 6th Cross-Strait Media Summit, were held in Beijing on May 28th and 29th. CCP Politburo member Wang Huning met with former KMT Chair Hung Hsiu-chu ahead of the events. Several prominent figures attended, including newly appointed Taiwan Affairs Office (TAO) Deputy Director Zhao Shitong and well-known Taiwanese lyricist Vincent Fang.

The TAO has announced a series of cultural events, including forums, performances, exhibitions, and visits to notable sites such as the Forbidden City. While these appear as cultural exchanges, the MAC criticized the events, suggesting they serve more as platforms for ideological messaging rather than genuine exchanges.

Wang Huning emphasized cultural unity and anti-independence messages, with Hung echoing pro-China sentiments. These summits have previously been mocked as lectures to pro-China Taiwanese media figures. This year's summit follows President Lai's controversial "corporate merger" metaphor on cross-strait relations, which was poorly received in Beijing, triggering military drills and hardened rhetoric.

Nonetheless, Beijing's recent tone appears slightly more moderate. The People's Daily highlighted the 10th anniversary of the "Xi-Ma meeting" and stressed the

role of cross-strait media in promoting peaceful development. Beijing continues to insist on the "One China" principle and the 1992 Consensus as preconditions for dialogue.

Meanwhile, TAO spokesperson Chen Bin-hua also criticized the Lai administration for failing to resist U.S. economic pressure and for allegedly sacrificing Taiwan's industries and public interests to appease the U.S.

The TAO's Research Center held the "2025 Cross-Strait Relations Symposium" on May 16th, where Chinese Taiwan affairs officials and scholars (涉台學者) heavily criticized President Lai's cross-strait policy as "ROC Taiwanization" (中華民國台獨化) and personally attacked President Lai as being in "madness, making final struggles."(陷入最後瘋狂、進行最後掙扎) They also criticized the DPP government for being "servile to foreign powers while suppressing domestic dissent," continuing to foster "anti-American sentiment," while acknowledging that "Lai Ching-te alongside Trump" brings more variables to Taiwan issues. They concluded by emphasizing the need to use "Chinese-style modernization" to create "unification's attractiveness" and not to "self-limit" on "unification timetable" issues.

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## ■ United Front Operations

### 1. Organized Crime

Media revealed that the CCP has drawn up a "Distribution Map of Taiwan's Gang Armed Forces" to enable "wartime" mobilization of pro-CCP gangs as "armed internal supporters" to assist in seizing Taiwan. The MAC and MOI stated they have long observed CCP infiltration of Taiwan's criminal organizations and will instruct prosecutors to investigate according to the law.

### 2. Internet Influencers/Celebrities

The PRC is increasingly utilizing Taiwanese internet celebrities in its influence operations to shape public opinion and achieve political outcomes, particularly in pursuit of unification. From national celebrations to military exercises and political events, certain Taiwanese entertainers have frequently shared content from Chinese state media, reinforcing unification narratives and exerting

emotional and political pressure on Taiwan's public discourse.

These statements are no longer isolated or personal choices; rather, they reflect coordinated rhetorical action in sync with the Chinese Communist Party's official messaging. Celebrities, whose influence is traditionally built upon cultural and emotional resonance, have increasingly become conduits for ideological transmission, eroding Taiwan's psychological resilience over time.

In March 2025, during China's "Two Sessions" meetings, Foreign Minister Wang Yi reiterated that "Taiwan has never been a country" and claimed its only legitimate designation is "a province of China." In response, CCTV released new visuals promoting the slogan "Taiwan belongs to China." This prompted another wave of social media reposts by Taiwanese celebrities, including Ouyang Nana and Angela Chang. Wen Qi joined the movement and even labeled her social media profile with the title "Chinese Taiwan artist," signaling a full alignment of personal identity with Beijing's rhetoric.

Another recent case involves popular streamer, Chen Chih-han (aka 館長), who announced he would be travelling to the PRC as a "peace ambassador," asserting that the trip was apolitical. However, his trip was endorsed by the TAO, which touted the potential benefits of tourism for Taiwanese visitors and framed the trip as a chance for positive cultural exchange and engagement.

Despite these assurances, leaked audio from fellow influencer BaJiong suggests that Chinese United Front officials may be planning and directing trips like these. Apparently, the influencers participated in a cross-border e-commerce propaganda campaign four years ago. The MAC responded cautiously, advising its citizens that while their individual travel to the PRC is legal, they should avoid violating any cross-strait regulations or being used as pawns in someone's political agenda. Officials did note that the PRC has sought and trained Taiwanese internet personalities for many years.

In May 2025, the MAC launched a formal investigation. MAC Chair Chiu Chui-cheng announced that entertainers found to be collaborating with CCP propaganda campaigns may be subject to penalties in accordance with the law. Deputy Chair Shih You-chung noted that over 20 individuals have been preliminarily identified for investigation. In cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, authorities will examine whether these entertainers systematically aligned with Beijing's messaging at key political moments, disseminated state-

sponsored content, and contributed to morale erosion in Taiwan. The investigation will be conducted under Article 33-1 of the Act Governing Relations Between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area.

The investigation is guided by two red lines:

1. Explicit denial of Taiwan's sovereignty or public endorsement of military unification.
2. Undermining the democratic constitutional order by amplifying CCP propaganda or participating in united front operations.

Entertainers who have participated in CPPCC (Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference) events, publicly disparaged Taiwan, or reposted high-sensitivity CCP visuals will be prioritized for review by the Ministry of Culture. The government intends to move beyond relying on public backlash alone and instead apply institutional mechanisms to uphold national dignity. This issue transcends the cultural sector; it is a concrete manifestation of the CCP's cognitive warfare extending into the entertainment industry.

When Taiwanese celebrities publicly echo authoritarian narratives by adopting identifiers such as "Chinese Taiwan artist" or repeatedly sharing united front visuals, it becomes imperative to draw clear boundaries. Taiwanese legal and public mechanisms must work in tandem to defend democratic values.

According to recent assessments, this infiltration strategy now forms a "united front chain" that spans military intimidation, propaganda, and entertainment. The government's current investigative actions are not aimed at restricting freedom of speech but are a necessary defense to protect that freedom from authoritarian co-option.

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## ■ Foreign Attitudes toward China

### China's Coalition Building Against the United States

China actively courted other countries to oppose the United States. On the 6th, China's Foreign Ministry announced the complete lifting of "mutual restrictions on exchanges with the European Parliament." After the "Xi-Putin meeting," China and Russia issued a joint statement on the 8th, vowing to resolutely

respond to "America's dual containment of China and Russia." China hosted the "China-CELAC Forum" on the 13th to issue the "Beijing Declaration," criticizing American unilateralism with representatives from Latin America and the Caribbean. Crucially, Taiwanese diplomatic allies Haiti and St. Lucia participated in the forum. Foreign media also revealed that various countries have recently quietly expanded espionage operations in Germany (employing over 300 retired PLA personnel in North Sea wind farms) and Cuba (expanding surveillance facilities targeting the United States).

Recent reports suggest that Indonesia is considering procuring Chinese J-10 fighter aircraft alongside its original procurement plans for the French Rafale fighter aircraft. This report comes on the heels of the recent India-Pakistan Kashmir skirmish, in which a Pakistani J-10 aircraft shot down an Indian Rafale in a dogfight.

## ■ **China's Internal Political and Economic Situation**

### 1. Xi's Military Leadership Purge

Xi Jinping's level of trust in the military has raised external questions, with recent frequent personnel changes among senior military-industrial state enterprise leadership. Statistics show that since 2024, senior leadership of 11 major Chinese military-industrial groups have been transferred or fallen from grace. The New York Times published an article by a Chinese military expert claiming that Xi Jinping's recent purges of senior military officials, including "Taiwan strategy key figures" like He Weidong, may weaken PLA command stability and delay the Taiwan invasion timetable.

China's anti-corruption campaign continued to target military and senior local officials, including former Central Military Commission member Miao Hua (already suspended for investigation), former Hubei Provincial Party Secretary Jiang Chaoliang, Kweichow Moutai Group Chairman Ding Xiongjun, and former Jilin Provincial Government Secretary-General Liu Huawen, all stripped of NPC representative status. China Securities Regulatory Commission Vice Chairman Wang Jianjun was also investigated by the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

### 2. Economic Measures to Address Tariff War Impact

To mitigate the impact of the U.S.-China tariff war, China's central bank announced on the 8th a 0.5% reduction in policy interest rates and a 0.5% reserve requirement ratio cut effective from the 15th, expected to release approximately 1 trillion yuan in long-term funds to the market. China's financial regulatory authority announced eight incremental policies. External analysis suggests the CCP will use "three arrows" (reserve requirement cuts, interest rate cuts, and technology innovation bond issuance) monetary policy to alleviate current economic pressure.

The effects of the U.S. tariff war are emerging, with China's Consumer Price Index (CPI) declining for three consecutive months, showing deflationary pressure persists. China's exports to the U.S. fell 21% in April, with analysts estimating a 70-80% year-on-year decline in May. Multiple institutions have downgraded China's economic growth forecasts for this year, all below Beijing's targets.

### 3. Private Enterprise under Xi

China is expected to formally implement the "Private Economy Promotion Law" on the 20th and host the "Global Trade and Investment Promotion Summit" on the 22nd, showing the Chinese government's efforts to consolidate domestic enterprises' and foreign investors' confidence in China's economy amid the impact of the U.S. tariff war. Beijing Daily published a commentary revisiting Mao Zedong's "On Protracted War," calling for China to prepare for long-term competition with the United States. China's National Bureau of Statistics data showed April manufacturing PMI at 49.0%, falling below the "boom-bust line" and ending two consecutive months of recovery.

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# 民主進步黨

Democratic Progressive Party of Taiwan

2025

Democratic Progressive Party  
Diplomacy Empowerment Program

民主進步黨外交培力營 TAIWAN



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## WEDNESDAY, JULY 23RD

## 6:30PM

Dear <<First Name>>,

The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) U.S. Mission cordially invites you to a Happy Hour reception in Washington, D.C.

This gathering is a special opportunity to meet with a delegation of visiting DPP staffers from Taiwan's Legislative Yuan, as well as colleagues across the Taiwanese policy and international affairs communities. The delegation is a part of the DPP's Diplomacy Empowerment Program, which aims to foster the next generation of Taiwan's policymakers while deepening partnerships with their American counterparts.

Enjoy casual drinks and meaningful conversations as we connect with friends old and new.

**[Event Details]**

▶ Date: Wednesday, July 23

▶ Time: 6:30 PM

▶ Location: The Barrel (Basement), 613 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20003

This is an **invitation-only** event, invites are not transferrable. To RSVP, please register through **Eventbrite below** using the **Access Code: DPPHH2025** to unlock the RSVP page.

👉 **Please RSVP by 5 PM ET on July 21.**

We'll be sending out confirmation emails via MailChimp within a few days to verify attendance eligibility. If you do not receive a confirmation email, your RSVP may not be finalized.

For any questions or special accommodations, reach out to Cristal Chiou/Dennis Yang/Peng-Hsuan Chen at [dpp.dc.office@gmail.com](mailto:dpp.dc.office@gmail.com) or call 206-636-5637.

Sincerely,  
Taiwan DPP U.S. Mission

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Democratic Progressive Party of Taiwan

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## **President Lai Thanks Negotiation Team and Reaffirms Commitment to Tariff Resolution**

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*July 31st, 2025*

Earlier today, President Lai Ching-te shared an important [update](#) on Taiwan-U.S. tariff negotiations:

*[Unofficial translation by the DPP U.S. Mission]*

“Earlier, the U.S. informed Taiwan’s negotiating team in Washington that Taiwan’s ‘provisional tariff rate’ would be set at 20%. The main reason is that, due to the procedural arrangement of the negotiations, the Taiwan-U.S. sides have not yet concluded the final meeting. Therefore, the U.S. has temporarily announced a 20% tariff rate for Taiwan. **Once an agreement is reached in the future, there is hope that the tariff rate can be further lowered. Both sides will also continue negotiations on supply chain cooperation and issues related to Section 232 tariffs.**”

“I want to express my gratitude to the negotiation team for their hard work. Despite the limited timeframe, after four rounds of in-person negotiations and numerous virtual meetings, technical consultations have been completed. The team has firmly upheld four key missions: safeguarding national interests, protecting industrial interests, ensuring public health and guaranteeing food

safety. Although the tariff rate announced by the U.S. today is only a provisional measure, our administration will keep striving for a fair tariff rate and working to complete the final phase of the tariff negotiations.”

Taiwan remains committed to close cooperation with the United States in addressing trade and supply chain challenges. We will continue working with our American partners to advance mutual interests and ensure a fair and sustainable economic partnership.

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*July 31st, 2025*

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## [Key Takeaways]

### United Front Activities and "Hybrid Warfare"

- **Revisionism on Full Display:** "Three 80th Anniversaries" as Central Theme: The 80th anniversary of "victory in the War of Resistance", the 80th anniversary of "Taiwan's retrocession," and the 80th anniversary of the UN's establishment have become the core narratives for the CCP's 2025 united front work toward Taiwan.
- **United Front Work Targeting Youth:** United front activities targeting Taiwan's youth have intensified, covering multiple fields including culture, sports, and academia.
- **Intensified Cognitive and Political Warfare:** Through state media manipulation and disinformation campaigns, influencing Taiwan's domestic politics and democratic processes.
- **Pacing Gray Zone Threats:** Military threats combined with civil aviation and coast guard operations.

### Taiwan's Responses

- **Pursuing Defense Industry Cooperation:** Continuing to promote defense industry development and reduce supply chain dependence from Chinese components.
- **Information Security Enhancement:** Comprehensive regulation and risk assessment of Chinese-made apps.
- **Tightening Scrutiny of United Front Activities:** Taking a cautious approach toward exchange activities suspected of United Front involvement.
- **Deepening International Cooperation:** Collaborating with democratic nations to jointly address Chinese threats.

### Future Trends

- **United Front Offense Will Continue to Escalate:** As the revisionist narratives of Beijing's "Three 80th Anniversaries" commemorative activities unfold, the CCP's united front offense toward Taiwan is expected to become more intensive.
- **Military Threats and Gray Zone Conflicts in Parallel:** China will continue to use military threats combined with various gray zone tactics to pressure Taiwan.
- **Deepening Impact of Cognitive Warfare:** The CCP will continue to exploit Taiwan's domestic political issues for cognitive warfare and opinion manipulation.

- **Increasing Influence of International Factors:** The US-China competition and the global democracies' stance toward China will continue to influence the development of cross-strait relations.

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## ■ Cross-Strait Relations and Cross-Strait Policy

### I. China's Political Commentary on Taiwan

#### 1. Beijing Escalates Political Response to President Lai's "Ten Talks on Uniting the Country" (團結國家十講)

In his [second address](#) of the "Ten Talks on Uniting the Country" on June 24, President Lai called for solidarity between the "Pro-Taiwan camp" and the "Pro-Republic of China camp" in resisting authoritarianism. He underscored that identification with both Taiwan and the Republic of China should be inclusive, stating that "the intersection of Taiwanese identity and ROC identity is the collective will of the people of Taiwan."

In response, China's Taiwan Affairs Office (TAO) spokesperson Zhu Fenglian issued a statement on July 25, accusing President Lai of "rehashing pro-independence rhetoric" and promoting a "new two-state theory." She further claimed that Lai was "deliberately distorting history" and "deepening divisions within Taiwanese society." Notably, Zhu also linked Lai's ten talks to Taiwan's recent recall campaign. Zhu claimed Lai was using the narrative to "suppress opposition forces and fuel the recall movement for political gain." She further called on the Taiwanese public to "see through and reject the DPP's political manipulation." This response indicates Beijing's attempt to insert itself into Taiwan's democratic processes by intertwining cross-strait rhetoric with domestic political developments, amplifying its influence through both external pressure and internal narrative framing.

#### 2. KMT Response

Taiwan's internal response showed clear polarization. KMT Chairman Eric Chu accused President Lai of "treating opponents as impurities," Taipei Mayor Chiang Wan-an criticized the "ideological cleansing" approach, and Taichung Mayor Lu Shiow-yen called it "indiscriminate retaliation" driven by the DPP's

unwillingness to accept their electoral defeat. The TPP questioned the binary thinking of "non-green equals communist." Notably, former President Ma Ying-jeou stated in Dunhuang, China, on June 26th that "Chinese culture is a precious common asset of both sides of the strait," with the timing and location of his remarks echoing Beijing's cultural united front discourse, forming a stark contrast to President Lai's discourse.

## **II. China's Escalation of Military and Legal Warfare Against Taiwan**

### **1. Unilateral Activation of W121 Air Route**

China's Civil Aviation Administration announced on July 6th the activation of the M503 route's W121 connecting air route. The TAO claimed this move was to alleviate the pressure of flight growth in relevant areas. The Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) responded the same day that China has now unilaterally violated the cross-Strait consensus three times, completely disrespecting Taiwan's public opinion, unilaterally changing the status quo, and increasing cross-strait and regional instability.

U.S. State Department spokesperson responded on July 6th, stating that the United States expected cross-Strait differences to be resolved "by peaceful means, free from coercion, in a manner acceptable to the people on both sides of the Strait. Issues related to civil aviation and safety in the Taiwan Strait should be decided through dialogue between both sides."

Deputy Minister of the MAC, Liang Wen-chieh, stated on July 10th that China has made unilateral announcements each time it makes changes to aviation routes, with the Chinese side unilaterally notifying Taiwan's civil aviation units through existing liaison mechanisms only the day before. Upon receiving the notice, Taiwan immediately expressed disagreement and called for consultation, but received no response from Beijing.

### **2. Military and Economic Sanctions in Parallel**

China's Ministry of Commerce issued an announcement on the July 9th, adding 8 "Taiwan region" entities to its export control list, including Aerospace Industrial Development Corporation, GEOSAT Aerospace & Technology Inc, National Chung-Shan Institute of Science and Technology, JC Technology Inc, CSBC Corporation Taiwan, Jong Shyn Shipbuilding Co., LungTeh Shipbuilding Co., Ltd., and Gong Wei Co., Ltd.

The TAO stated on July 9th that since President Lai took office, he has persisted in his Taiwan independence stance, attempting to “seek independence by relying on foreign support or by force,” with some "Taiwan region" entities participating in this. China's Ministry of Commerce stated, "This is a necessary measure to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity and maintain peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait." Regarding the ROC military's "Han Kuang 41" live-fire exercises from July 9th to July 18th, the TAO responded on the 9th, claiming that the DPP government's attempts to "seek independence through military means" and "prepare for war to seek independence" will only further undermine peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

### **3. Continued Gray Zone Activities by China**

- Chinese Coast Guard vessel "3302" entered restricted waters about 26 nautical miles northwest of Dongsha Island in the early morning of July 2nd. In response, Taiwan's Coast Guard dispatched the Yunlin patrol vessel to shadow and monitor the intrusion.
- Early July, a large “PLA Navy Type 072A tank landing ship” was spotted for the first time, patrolling waters off the coast of Keelung in northern Taiwan, marking an escalation in gray zone maritime pressure.
- On July 11, an incursion occurred involving four CCG vessels—14608, 14527, 14609, and 14513—moving in column formation under dark-ship conditions into the restricted zone off Kinmen. Despite China's claim that these are routine patrols, Taiwan's Coast Guard Administration (CGA) characterized the actions as persistent and deliberate "harassment." Taiwan officials emphasized their commitment to monitoring and defending national sovereignty and maritime security around Kinmen, where waters are highly contested due to the island's proximity to China's Xiamen.
- Such incursions into restricted waters around Kinmen County continued on July 30 and 31, when four China Coast Guard (CCG) vessels—14605, 14529, 14608, and 14513—entered waters southeast of Liaoluo Bay in a suspected effort to challenge Taiwan's maritime claims. On both days, the ships remained in the area for roughly two hours and reportedly turned off their Automatic Identification Systems (AIS), a maneuver aimed at evading detection. The CGA responded by deploying patrol boats to shadow the vessels and issued radio warnings.

#### **4. Emergence of Extreme United Front Rhetoric**

A Chinese scholar, Victor Gao from the Center for China and Globalization (CCG, allegedly affiliated with the CCP United Front Department), stated in an interview with Guanchazhe (Observer) that Beijing is facing a situation where “peaceful unification appears increasingly unlikely, and the cost of military unification is too high.” As a result, he expressed hope that something akin to a “second Xi’an Incident” might occur in Taiwan. Gao suggested that perhaps a subversive force in Taiwan could “suddenly, for example, take control of President Lai Ching-te,” and then call for China to dispatch security personnel to quickly land on the island to “maintain public order” in Taiwan.

### **III. Taiwan Government Response Measures**

#### **1. Defense Industry Response**

The MAC stated on July 9th that, facing increasing CCP military threats against Taiwan, and based on strengthening national security and resilience, the government's established policy of developing the defense industry through building autonomous defense industry capacity and capability will not change.

Responses from Taiwan Major Defense Contractors:

- China Ship Building Corporation (Taiwan Shipbuilding, 台灣國際造船股份有限公司) stated that the supply chains for submarines and Coast Guard vessels are primarily sourced from Europe and the United States. All military-related production is isolated from the “red supply chain.” For commercial shipbuilding, CSBC relies mostly on Japanese and South Korean supply chains. The company stressed that, while the overall impact of China’s export control measures is expected to be limited, a clearer assessment will depend on the specific items listed.
- Aerospace Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC, 漢翔航空工業股份有限公司) acknowledged that while the export controls will have some impact, it remains manageable. AIDC reiterated that its military aviation projects do not use Chinese suppliers. However, for its civilian aircraft programs, some components do originate from China due to customer-specified sourcing requirements and industry certification standards. The company is currently evaluating the scope of the potential disruption and is actively seeking alternative solutions.

- Lungteh Shipbuilding (龍德造船) stated that its military-related production will not be affected by the export controls. As for its civilian shipbuilding activities, Chinese-sourced materials and components are limited to items with high substitutability, so the company expects little to no impact on production.

## **2. Information Security Enhancement**

Taiwan's National Security Bureau has identified five Chinese apps—Xiaohongshu (RedNote), Weibo, TikTok (Douyin), WeChat, and Baidu Cloud—as posing significant cybersecurity risks due to "excessive personal data collection" and "permission abuse." All affiliated government personnel have been instructed to delete these apps entirely to prevent potential threats to national security. Among the five, Xiaohongshu was flagged as the most concerning. Authorities warned that even if the app has only been downloaded but is no longer in use, it can still access user data at any time, and may even retain facial recognition information of users.

## **3. Follow-up to Management of Chinese Spouse Certificates**

On July 3rd, the MAC issued a press release clarifying that the Taiwan government would not unilaterally revoke the legal status of Taiwanese citizens or forcibly deport them. Currently, over 140,000 former PRC nationals have obtained legal residency or citizenship in Taiwan, with more than 130,000 having complied with legal requirements by submitting proof of renouncing their original household registration in China.

As of July 2, 86.3% of individuals in all citizenship cases under MAC's review have either submitted the required documentation, received government approval through a sworn statement, applied for an extension, or are under official tracking due to extended stays abroad.

## **IV. International Incidents and Reactions**

### **1. Follow-up to Chinese Intimidation of VP Hsiao Bi-khim in the Czech Republic**

Czech Senate Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Pavel Fischer stated, "China's surveillance of Taiwan's top representative during their visit to the Czech Republic is completely unacceptable. When a state engages in

intimidation, it amounts to state terrorism. The only appropriate response is firm and uncompromising: ‘an eye for an eye.’” He added that “the expulsion of Chinese diplomats has been considered,” and criticized the Czech Foreign Ministry’s weak response as “incomprehensible.”

U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan, in his opening remarks at the [U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission \(CECC\) hearing](#) on July 23, echoed similar concerns. He emphasized that the threat posed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to Taiwan is no longer abstract. Citing reports from Czech intelligence agencies, Sullivan noted that Beijing had planned intimidating actions during Vice President-elect Hsiao Bi-khim’s visit to the Czech Republic. He further pointed out that the CCP not only harasses international media covering Taiwanese leaders but also engages in surveillance and doxing of individuals around the world who criticize its Taiwan policy—actions that amount to transnational repression. Senator Sullivan described these behaviors as part of a coordinated, strategic campaign by Beijing aimed at isolating Taiwan and manipulating global narratives. He warned that the victims of such actions are not limited to the people of Taiwan, but also include citizens of the United States and other democratic countries.

## **2. United Front Activity Control: “Kinmen-Xiamen Strait Crossing Swim” Canceled**

The highly symbolic “Kinmen-Xiamen Swim” (traditionally involves participants swimming from Xiamen to Kinmen in odd-numbered years and from Kinmen to Xiamen in even-numbered years) was canceled this year amid growing concerns over its association with China’s united front activities. Originally launched in 2009 as a joint initiative between Fujian Province, China, and Kinmen County, Taiwan, the event’s swim route crosses the median line of the Taiwan Strait, carrying clear political implications.

The MAC has stated that the Kinmen-Xiamen Swim is not a purely athletic event but a political tool tied to Beijing’s united front strategy, and the government will approach such events with caution.

In contrast, the “Kinmen Open Water Swim,” organized solely by the Kinmen County Government, went ahead as planned on July 27 at Hsishan Lake Bay in Lieyu (Little Kinmen). This event takes place entirely within Kinmen’s restricted maritime zone and does not involve crossing into Chinese waters ([Map of the respective swim events here](#)).

Kinmen Deputy Magistrate Lee Wen-liang told the media that this year's swim reached its cap of 1,200 participants, including approximately 102 swimmers from China, many of whom had originally planned to take part in the canceled Kinmen-Xiamen event. "Participants aren't just from Kinmen," Lee said. "Swimmers from across Taiwan and the mainland are all very welcome to join this event." When asked about the future of cross-strait sports exchanges, Lee expressed optimism, saying, "We believe both sides of the strait support Kinmen. As long as we continue organizing these events professionally and with care, we hope they can continue with support from both sides."

### **3. China Intensifies Diplomatic Pressure on Taiwan**

- On July 21, the South African government unilaterally announced a name change for Taiwan's representative offices from "Taipei Liaison Office" to "Taipei Commercial Office" without prior consultation with Taiwan, and in violation of the agreement between the two countries reached in 1997. In its notice, the South African government cited its "one China" policy and United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 to justify renaming and downgrading Taiwan's missions in Pretoria and Cape Town. On July 22, Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a strong protest the following day, and announced on July 29 that Taiwan is considering restricting exports of semiconductors to South Africa as a countermeasure.
- On July 25, Foreign Minister Lin Chia-lung visited Japan and toured Taiwan's representative office in Tokyo, drawing a sharp response from Beijing. Liu Jinsong, Director-General of the Department of Asian Affairs at China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, urgently summoned a senior Japanese diplomat in Beijing the same day, accusing Lin of a "sneaky visit" and "pro-independence provocation." The Chinese embassy in Tokyo also lodged a protest with Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the following day issued a statement demanding that Tokyo "take measures to mitigate the impact," further seeking to constrain normal Taiwan-Japan engagement under the guise of the "One China Principle."
- During the Tokyo International Choir Competition held from July 25 to 27, three Taiwanese choirs originally registered under the name "Taiwan" and displayed national flags. However, following protests from China on July 26, all flags were taken down, and Taiwan's name was unilaterally changed to "Chinese Taipei." Despite strong efforts by Taiwan's

representative office in Japan and pro-Taiwan Japanese lawmakers, the event organizers ultimately capitulated to Beijing's demands.

- At the Rhine-Ruhr World University Games in Germany, after the Taiwan's men's taekwondo team won a silver medal, representatives from Taiwan's Sports Administration attempted to present a congratulatory letter signed by the Minister of Education. The gesture was met with interference from Chinese personnel, resulting in verbal altercations and an attempted seizure of the letter.

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## ■ **Cross-Strait Exchanges and CCP United Front Activities**

### **I. Major United Front Activities**

#### **1. 8th Cross-Strait Youth Development Forum**

On July 9, TAO spokesperson Chen Binhua announced that the 8th "Cross-Strait Youth Development Forum" would open on July 11 in Zhejiang. Former KMT Chairperson Hung Hsiu-chu attended the forum for the eighth consecutive year. Around 1,000 participants, including guests from both sides of the Taiwan Strait and youth representatives from various sectors, attended related events. Hung stated that she remains firmly committed to the "1992 Consensus" and will continue to promote the visibility and influence of the Cross-Strait Youth Development Forum. She emphasized the importance of deepening youth exchanges between the two sides and expressed hope that such efforts would contribute to the eventual "reunification of the motherland."

#### **2. 2025 Cross-Strait Youth Summit**

The "2025 Cross-Strait Youth Summit" opened on July 3 in Beijing. The event was co-hosted by China's TAO under the State Council, the Ministry of Education, the All-China Youth Federation, and the Beijing Municipal Government. In a notable departure from previous years, this year's summit did not allow Taiwanese media to attend or report on-site. During the opening, TAO Director Song Tao emphasized that young people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait should uphold the shared belief that "the territory must not be divided, the country must not fall into chaos, the nation must not be fragmented, and our civilization must not be severed." He called on the youth to firmly oppose "Taiwan independence" and foreign interference. Former Taiwan

President Ma Ying-jeou delivered remarks via pre-recorded video in his capacity as former chairman of the KMT. He noted that over the past two years, he has led four delegations of Taiwanese professors and students to visit China.

### **3. United Front Messaging at WAIC Using “AI Integration” as a New Strategy**

At the [2025 World Artificial Intelligence Conference \(WAIC\)](#) held in Shanghai on July 27, China introduced a new “Cross-Strait AI Integration Innovation Zone” and hosted its first “Cross-Strait AI Integration Forum.” While framed as a platform for technological collaboration, the initiative served as a new vehicle for advancing Beijing’s united front strategy toward Taiwan. During the forum, TAO Deputy Director-General Zhao Shitong reiterated the “One China Principle” and the “1992 Consensus,” stating that China will fully implement Xi Jinping’s “Overall Strategy for Resolving the Taiwan Issue in the New Era.” He called on the people of Taiwan to “firmly oppose Taiwan independence.” Zhao also emphasized support for Taiwanese businesses to participate in China’s national development strategies and benefit from what he called the “dividends of Chinese-style modernization.” He urged Taiwanese citizens to “recognize the trend of history and uphold the national interest.” This initiative clearly links technological cooperation with political messaging, using economic incentives to repackage unification goals. By leveraging AI development as a new tool of political influence, Beijing seeks to promote a narrative of “cross-strait integration,” particularly targeting Taiwanese businesspeople and youth living in China.

## **II. Cultural United Front Operations**

### **1. Musician Incident**

Taiwanese guzheng musician Chu Tzu-yu recently revealed on Facebook that she was forced to shout slogans such as “I love the Yellow River, I love China” during a performance trip to China. She had accepted an invitation in May under the impression that it was merely a musical exchange, but upon arrival, she discovered it was part of the “80th Anniversary of Taiwan’s Retrocession” celebration and was compelled to participate in political expressions.

### **2. Influencer United Front Tactics**

Internet influencer Chen Chih-han (“館長, Kuan Chang”) recently remarked during a livestream that “the fate of 23 million Taiwanese is decided by 1.4

billion Chinese” and vowed to continue livestreaming in China. After Taiwan’s large-scale recall vote concluded, he traveled to Macau on July 27 for an upcoming livestream event. At the airport, he criticized President Lai for treating only his supporters as fellow citizens while disparaging others as “impurities.” He predicted the DPP would suffer a “crushing defeat” in the next recall vote on August 23. Chen claimed that neither the DPP, the President, nor the recall organizers had reflected on their own actions and instead continued to insult second-generation children of Chinese spouses, exacerbating emotional divisions within Taiwan. He asserted that his trip to Macau was meant to “show Taiwanese people the reality of China.” Earlier, during a KMT youth event, Chen openly declared that a Chinese attack on Taiwan would be “as easy as squashing a cockroach,” and claimed that “the Republic of China would surrender within two minutes” if war broke out. In a subsequent livestream, he called for a “revolution after July 26” to “turn all Taiwanese into Chinese.” In response, MAC Deputy Minister Liang Wen-chieh stressed that the conflict between Taiwan and China stems not from ethnicity or culture but from differences in political systems and values. Taiwanese people pursue a lifestyle of freedom and democracy and do not accept the CCP’s one-party dictatorship.

### **III. CCP Cognitive Warfare and Intelligence Operations**

#### **1. IORG Report on CCP Involvement in Recall Campaign**

A new report by the Taiwan Information Environment Research Center (IORG), which specializes in disinformation analysis, reveals that Chinese state media have used Taiwan’s recent recall campaign to intensify negative portrayals of President Lai Ching-te, the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), recall supporters, and Taiwan’s democratic system as a whole. According to IORG’s analysis of content from Chinese state media and Taiwan-based outlets referencing the recall, six recurring derogatory terms were frequently used to criticize the recall effort and its supporters. These include: “dictatorship,” “Green Communists (綠共),” “Green Terror (綠色恐怖),” “Green Guards (綠衛兵),” “toads,” and “Taluban (塔綠班)” (a play on words using the word “green” in the middle of the Chinese translation of Taliban). The report found that mentions of the recall in Chinese state media peaked at two key moments: first, following the KMT’s April 29 rally against what it called “dictatorship,” and again on June 20, when Taiwan’s Central Election Commission officially approved the recall cases against 24 KMT legislators.

## **2. Former Political Figures Allegedly Leaked to Beijing**

In his newly released book, former Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) Chairman David Lee revealed that several former Taiwanese (KMT) political figures secretly contacted Beijing in 2016 to express opposition to President Tsai Ing-wen's inaugural cross-strait policy stance. Taiwan's MAC responded to the disclosure by saying it was "unsurprising." According to Lee, after President Tsai stated in her 2016 inauguration speech that she respected the "historical fact of the 1992 talks," U.S. intelligence sources informed him that initial reactions from Chinese think tanks were relatively positive. However, Lee claims that shortly thereafter, several former Taiwan politicians, acting out of self-interest, privately sent messages to the Chinese authorities urging them not to accept President Tsai's position.

## **3. CCP Seizes Post-Recall Opportunity to Amplify Anti-DPP Narrative**

Following the unprecedented large-scale legislative recall effort in Taiwan—ultimately resulting in the opposition KMT retaining all of its seats—Chinese state authorities and pro-Beijing media swiftly moved to shape the narrative. The TAO accused the DPP of practicing "fake democracy, real dictatorship," using the outcome to question the legitimacy of Taiwan's democratic system and portray the DPP as losing public support. State-run outlets such as Global Times and China Review News Agency framed the result as a comprehensive rejection of the DPP's "anti-China, pro-independence" agenda, claiming it reflects a mainstream public desire for "peace, dialogue, and unification." This interpretation was used as a basis to exert pressure on both cross-strait relations and Taiwan's internal political dynamics. Meanwhile, several Chinese scholars echoed these official narratives, asserting that the recall outcome signaled a shift in public opinion away from the DPP and toward greater cross-strait stability. Their remarks aligned closely with Beijing's long-standing unification agenda, further reinforcing China's efforts to leverage the political moment to shape perceptions both within Taiwan and abroad.

## **IV. Academic United Front and Historical Narrative Manipulation**

### **1. China Launches Series of High-Profile Events to Mark "Three 80th Anniversaries"**

Beijing is actively organizing a series of commemorative events under the banner of the "Three 80th Anniversaries," marking:

- The 80th anniversary of the victory in the War of Resistance Against Japan: On September 3, a military parade will be held, during which Chinese leader Xi Jinping is expected to deliver a speech. Veterans who fought under the Kuomintang against Japan have reportedly been invited to attend the ceremony.
- The 80th anniversary of Taiwan's "retrocession" from Japanese colonial rule: Around October 25, China plans to hold a large-scale commemorative conference marking the 80th anniversary of Taiwan's "retrocession."
- The 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations: On December 13, the annual National Memorial Day ceremony will be held in Nanjing to honor the victims of the Nanjing Massacre.

These events serve both domestic and external political objectives, reinforcing China's historical narrative and sovereignty claims under the guise of commemorative diplomacy.

## **2. Think Tank and Academic Platforms Launched to Advance Cross-Strait Unification Narrative**

China has recently intensified efforts to institutionalize its cross-strait discourse through the establishment of new think tanks and academic platforms:

- Minnan Normal University has launched the "Institute for Strengthening the Sense of Chinese National Community Among Cross-Strait Compatriots (兩岸同胞鑄牢中華民族共同體意識研究院)", which it claims is the first Taiwan-focused research institute in China dedicated specifically to this theme.
- The China Review Think Tank Foundation and the Cross-Strait Relations Research Center at Renmin University co-hosted the "Thinkers Forum: The Three 80th Anniversaries and the Taiwan Issue", focusing on historical interpretation and policy positioning related to Taiwan.
- Xiamen University professor Wei Leijie published an article calling for Beijing to enact a "Law on Safeguarding National Unification (維護國家統一法)", signaling growing academic advocacy for legal tools to formalize and advance China's claims over Taiwan.

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## Highlights from VP Hsiao Bi-khim's Address at the 2025 AI+ Expo

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Office of the President: <https://www.president.gov.tw/>

*June 9th, 2025*

On June 2, Taiwan's Vice President Hsiao Bi-khim delivered a compelling keynote and fireside conversation at the 2025 National Special Competitiveness AI+ Expo, hosted virtually by the Special Competitive Studies Project (SCSP).

Her remarks centered on the values of resilience, freedom, and innovation, which continue to shape Taiwan's national strategy in a rapidly evolving world. Here are some key takeaways:

■ **"AI Taiwan" Vision:** VP Hsiao outlined a three-part strategy to transform Taiwan into an AI-driven nation: embedding AI across government systems to improve service and capacity; empowering people and businesses by integrating AI into economic life; and connecting Taiwan to global innovation networks as a trusted contributor in secure, stable AI and tech supply chains.

■ **U.S.-Taiwan Tech Partnership:** She emphasized Taiwan's leadership in the global semiconductor industry, citing TSMC's \$100 billion investment in U.S. chip manufacturing, on top of its earlier \$65 billion commitment, as the largest foreign greenfield investment in American history. "Beyond chip manufacturing, Taiwan plays a critical role in helping to support the re-industrialization of the United States," she noted, highlighting AI leadership and reliable industrial ecosystems as pillars of U.S.-Taiwan cooperation.

■ **Defending Innovation:** VP Hsiao was clear: "We view economic security as part of national security." She acknowledged the ongoing challenges of economic coercion, IP theft, and non-market behavior, and reaffirmed Taiwan's commitment to strengthening export controls and building robust cooperation with democratic partners. "We are working to ensure the integrity of supply chains and to develop a values-based network of trusted partners who share a common commitment to freedom."

■ **Whole-of-Society Defense Resilience:** With increasing provocations by the PLA in the Taiwan Strait and nearby regions, VP Hsiao reiterated that deterrence remains a priority. "Peace cannot be taken for granted. We must work harder to maintain peace and prevent the tragedy of conflict," she said, drawing lessons from the war in Ukraine and emphasizing the role of asymmetric capabilities, emerging technologies like drones, AI-enabled systems, space integration, and civil-military cooperation to safeguard peace and democratic institutions. Taiwan has launched a Whole-of-Society Defense Resilience Commission to strengthen communications systems, food and energy security, critical infrastructure, cyber defense, and medical reserves, while also expanding civil society training to prepare for compound threats, from natural disasters to gray-zone tactics and disinformation.

■ **A Message to the World:** VP Hsiao reaffirmed Taiwan's commitment to ensuring that Taiwan remains a unifying issue in U.S. politics and not a partisan one. "We hope to arrive at a win-win roadmap that strengthens our

cooperation in technology, industrial competitiveness, and shared democratic values.”

Looking ahead, VP Hsiao concluded with a hopeful vision. By the end of her term, she hopes Taiwan will be a more resilient democracy, better able to withstand disinformation, coercion, and efforts to weaken public trust in democratic institutions. She envisions a Taiwan that continues to uphold peace, promote prosperity, and serve as a reliable partner in advancing shared human progress in the AI era. Despite global uncertainty, she expressed confidence that the excitement and creativity surrounding technological innovation will inspire the next generation and power a more optimistic, united society.

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## **Remarks by President Lai and Vice President Hsiao on June 4th Tiananmen Incident**

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DPP Staff attended the House Select Committee on China event on  
“Remembrance of Tiananmen Square” at Capitol Hill Square.

*June 4th, 2025*

On June 4th, President Lai, Vice President Hsiao, and the Democratic Progressive Party all spoke up on the 36th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Incident, reaffirming the importance of defending democracy and standing firm for freedom in generations to come. An unofficial translation as follows:

### ■ **President Lai at the DPP Central Standing Committee**

“Thirty-six years ago, on June 4, the world watched as the Tiananmen Square Incident unfolded in China. Amid a global wave of democratization, countless young students took to the streets. Their courage and sense of responsibility left a profound mark on humanity’s pursuit of ideals.

“Commemorating the Tiananmen Incident is not only about mourning history, it’s about keeping this story alive. Authoritarian regimes may try to silence the past, hoping it fades away. But in open societies, we choose to hold onto the truth, to cherish the memory of those who stood up for human rights and the dreams they carried in their hearts.

“The commitment to human rights is a value shared by Taiwan and all free societies, transcending generations, nationalities, and borders. Each year, Taiwan observes a candlelight ceremony on June 4 in remembrance, an act rooted in universal values.

“Taiwan is well-acquainted with this journey, having lived through the pain of the White Terror and worked diligently to heal through transitional justice. We’ve walked the path from oppression to democracy, a turning point in our history. We’re deeply grateful for the sacrifices of those who came before us, and we treasure the freedom they fought for. That’s why we can’t turn away from the growing shadow of authoritarianism threatening democracy and fairness worldwide.

Taiwan stands at the forefront of defending democracy, ready to join hands with friends around the world who share our hopes. Together, we’ll protect what we have and stand firm for freedom. We refuse to forget the past; we’ll live out our values every day, with heart and strength, so that our children and future generations can grow up in a world of freedom and possibility.”

### ■ **Vice President Hsiao’s Comments**

Vice President Bi-Khim Hsiao also stated, “Taiwan will continue to collaborate with like-minded partners and cherish our hard-earned democracy, ensuring that our next generation can grow up and thrive on this free land.”

## ■ DPP Official Statement

DPP expressed that “June 4th serves as a reminder to Taiwanese society that oppression is not far away. The DPP must not only remember this history but also remain vigilant against the authoritarian threat posed by the PRC. We have a responsibility to put our values into action. Through the Four Pillars of Peace action plan, we are strengthening national defense and economic resilience, while deepening cooperation with global partners to safeguard peace and democracy with strength.

“Last month, Taiwan’s government and civil society were honored with the Beacon Award by Freedom House, recognizing our steadfast commitment to democracy and our support for global freedom. This award belongs to all Taiwanese.

The DPP will continue to stand with the people of Taiwan, humbly supporting civic action and highlighting the clear contrast between Taiwan’s vibrant democracy and the authoritarian rule across the Strait.”

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## **President Lai Oversaw Coast Guard Drill, Urging Support for Funding Increase to Bolster Maritime Security**

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Office of the President: <https://www.president.gov.tw/>

**A proposed special act to strengthen economic,  
social and homeland security resilience  
in response to global challenges**



**4** main points **10** measures

- **Support industries** —  
Financial support for industries + Financial support for agriculture  
Industry competitiveness + Market diversification
- **Stabilize employment** —  
Reliable labor market, job security
- **Safeguard livelihoods** —  
Expanded social care services + Taipower & national  
insurance funding + Higher education talent investment
- **Enhance resilience** —  
National defense capabilities + Cybersecurity infrastructure

Office of Executive Yuan: <https://www.ey.gov.tw/>

*June 11th, 2025*

On June 8, President Lai Ching-te oversaw the “Hai An No.12” Coast Guard exercise in Kaohsiung. He expressed gratitude to Coast Guard personnel for safeguarding Taiwan’s maritime territory and emphasized the importance of strengthening national resilience amid rising geopolitical tensions and gray-zone threats from China. President Lai highlighted the Executive Yuan’s NT\$410 billion (USD\$12.6 billion) special budget, which includes funding for infrared thermal imaging systems, enabling accurate monitoring of maritime activity at night. He also called for increased deployment of unmanned vehicles and intelligent surveillance systems, underwater, surface, and aerial, to strengthen the Coast Guard’s three-dimensional intelligence gathering and defense capabilities across sea, land, and air. He urged lawmakers across party lines to support the Executive Yuan’s special budget proposal, ensuring that Coast Guard personnel are equipped with the most advanced technology and equipment. In order to defend Taiwan’s maritime territory by sea, land, and air. Marking National Ocean Day, President Lai reaffirmed Taiwan’s maritime identity and resilience, praising the Coast Guard’s frontline efforts and affirming Taiwan’s commitment to safeguarding its freedom and democracy.

The special budget titled "Special Act on Strengthening Economic, Social, and National Security Resilience in Response to International Developments"

consists of different initiatives. Most importantly, NT\$150 billion is designated to enhance homeland resilience, which includes building new Coast Guard vessels, deploying infrared thermal imaging systems, establishing UAV and smart surveillance infrastructure, upgrading 3D underwater imaging capabilities, and expanding training programs for personnel. Another NT\$150 billion will be used to improve Taiwan's information and communication technology infrastructure and operational systems.

On May 21, the Special Budget proposal was referred to the Legislative Yuan for cross-party negotiation. The Executive Yuan retains the term "homeland security resilience" which includes funding for Taipower and homeland defense. The KMT and TPP legislators eliminated homeland security resilience and Taipower funding, and instead proposed direct cash handouts of NT\$10,000 for the general public as well as NT\$6,000 per person with eligibility requirements.

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**DPP US Mission Statement on  
Foiled PRC Intimidation Plot Against  
Taiwan Vice President–Elect in Prague**

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[x.com/ipacglobal](https://x.com/ipacglobal)

*June 27th, 2025*

The DPP strongly condemns the conspiracy by Chinese diplomats and intelligence operatives to intimidate Vice President-elect Hsiao Bi-khim during her visit to Prague in March 2024. According to the Czech Military Intelligence Agency, the PRC plotted to stage a "demonstrative kinetic action"—including a potential car crash—targeting Vice President-elect Hsiao. Such acts constitute a serious breach of international norms and represent a dangerous escalation of China's extraterritorial repression.

This was a **failed attempt**—a blatant abuse of diplomatic privilege that was swiftly exposed and thwarted. We are deeply grateful to the Czech authorities for their vigilance and professionalism in exposing and preventing this malicious operation.

This incident has drawn **broad condemnation from the international community**, including a powerful statement from the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC), which rightly described this as an alarming crossing of the line into state-sponsored political violence.

Let us be clear: **Taiwan will not be intimidated**. The Taiwanese people and our elected leaders will never back down in the face of threats or violence. We will continue to engage the world with dignity, courage, and determination.

We call on all like-minded countries to speak out against such unacceptable behavior and jointly uphold the principles of peace, stability, and mutual respect. Attempts to export intimidation or coercion across borders must not be tolerated.

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Democratic Progressive Party of Taiwan

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**Chairman Lai Ching-te address to the  
DPP National Party Congress,  
June 28, 2025**

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*June 30th, 2025*

On June 28, Chairman Lai Ching-te addressed the annual meeting of the DPP National Party Congress in Taipei. He began with an overview of the work of his Administration since taking office as President on May 20, 2024, noting especially the challenges posed by the international environment and the lack of a majority in the Legislative Yuan.

Lai concluded the first part of his speech by saying, “No matter what threats or challenges we face, we must continue to move forward, never turning back, in order to honor the sacrifices of our predecessors who fought for the beautiful life we enjoy today.” He expressed his appreciation for the achievements of his forebears, who risked so much and worked so hard not only to build the DPP, but to bring democracy to Taiwan.

Lai then set forth the “mission of the new era.” He stated, “First, we must protect sovereignty and defend democracy. We all know that there is no country without sovereignty, and no freedom without democracy. We must be particularly vigilant against China’s efforts to exploit our diversity and openness to infiltrate Taiwan and harm our democracy. ” He elaborated on the need to strengthen national defense and whole-of-society resilience.

“Second, ” he stated, “we must fight for the economy and assist the disadvantaged.” Under this heading he emphasized enhancing Taiwan’s economic resilience through trade, investment, and transformation of small and medium-sized enterprises. He also highlighted the need for “balanced development,” such as addressing intergenerational and urban-rural divides.

Finally, he emphasized the importance of working with civil society, stating, “Taiwan society holds a precious force that emerges when the country is in crisis,” citing the examples of the 1990 “Wild Lily” and 2014 “Sunflower” movements. He observed, “In these civil movements, the DPP has always stood side by side with the people, supporting social consensus, defending Taiwan’s sovereignty, and safeguarding our democracy.”

Today, he continued, “While the international community is on alert over China’s expansion of power, the national defense budget and national security laws proposed by our government are being blocked and boycotted by the opposition. In this dire internal and external situation, the people of Taiwan are increasingly aware of the nation’s security, and this precious force has emerged once again. Not only did “bluebirds” fly out, the citizens have also initiated a mass recall on their own initiative. The DPP must walk alongside the citizens and shoulder together the responsibility of protecting the country.”

For the full text of Lai’s speech, please see [Address by Chairman Lai Ching-te at the DPP National Party Congress, June 28, 2025 / 民主進步黨 - 綠色執政品質保證](#)



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## China Influence Tracker (VIII)

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President Lai Ching-te presented his 4th "Ten Lectures on National Unity" on national defense hosted by Lions Club International

*June 30th, 2025*

In collaboration with the [DPP China Affairs Department](#), the latest DPP U.S. Mission report provides key updates on the evolving cross-strait situation,

detailing the escalation of China's military intimidation, gray zone activities, cognitive warfare, and United Front infiltration targeting Taiwan. The report further outlines Taiwan's policy responses, national security reforms, and international reactions. Enclosed are the recent developments, offering a comprehensive overview of the current threat landscape, Taiwan's countermeasures, and emerging public opinion trends shaping the strategic environment.

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## ■ Escalation of CCP United Front Offensive

### 1. Political United Front Operations

The 17th Straits Forum, held on June 15th, marked a significant escalation in Beijing's political influence operations, with former President Ma Ying-jeou making his first personal participation and meeting with China's top political advisor Wang Huning. Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council sharply criticized Ma for "losing his position" and cooperating with the CCP's political manipulation. The political implications deepened when Ma delivered remarks at the Dunhuang Research Institute on June 26, advocating for "democratic peaceful unification across the strait" while emphasizing "respect for the will of the Taiwanese people." Beijing's Taiwan Affairs Office immediately followed up on Ma's remarks, with Director Song Tao declaring that "Taiwan belongs to all Chinese people on both sides of the strait" and that "Taiwan's future should be decided by all Chinese children on both sides." Ma's cultural united front narrative emphasized that Chinese culture represents a precious common asset for both sides, claiming that any "cultural cleansing" efforts would fail.

### 2. Social Infiltration

The grassroots united front network expanded dramatically in the period. Over 7,000 Taiwanese were invited to participate in the Straits Forum, spanning labor unions, youth organizations, women's groups, folk religious associations, and agricultural and fishery sectors. In addition, China orchestrated large-scale united front activities, including the "Zhejiang-Taiwan Week," "Cross-Strait Chinese Culture Summit," and "Cross-Strait Media Summit." Other notable incidents included internet celebrity Gym Owner Chen's welcomed visit to Shanghai for live streaming by the Taiwan Affairs Office, recruitment activities for "Chinese Kunpeng Association" united front camps, and the controversial

"Artillery Group" exchange involving New Taipei City borough chiefs.

### 3. China's "Three 80th Anniversaries" United Front Offensive

National security sources revealed China's comprehensive strategy to utilize the "three 80th anniversaries" - victory in the War of Resistance against Japan, victory in the anti-fascist war, and Taiwan's "retrocession" - to conduct international legal warfare while distorting history to claim Taiwan belongs to the People's Republic of China. These anniversaries spans the entire second half of 2025, beginning with Xi Jinping's important speech at the September 3 Victory Day military parade, followed by the October 25 Taiwan Retrocession anniversary assembly, and concluding with the December 13 Nanjing Massacre memorial ceremony. Beijing's operational approach involves coordinated messaging from Xi Jinping, state media, and think tanks, actively seeking endorsements from Taiwanese political figures while distorting UN Resolution 2758, and claiming that "the post-war international order confirms Taiwan belongs to China."

Recent activities under this strategy included Xi's May op-ed in Russian media specifically mentioning the "80th anniversary of Taiwan's retrocession," claiming Taiwan's return to China represents a victory of World War II and an important component of the post-war international order. Wang Huning subsequently echoed these themes at the Straits Forum opening ceremony, emphasizing that this year marks the 80th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance and anti-fascist war, as well as Taiwan's retrocession, representing "compatriots on both sides defending Chinese national dignity and protecting their common homeland."

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## ■ CCP Legal Warfare and Intimidation Tactics

### 1. Cyberattack Accusations

Guangzhou Public Security Bureau accused Taiwan's Cyber Command of implementing cyberattacks, publishing personal information of 20 individuals with bounties for their capture. The Taiwan Affairs Office subsequently placed Cyber Command personnel under key monitoring, creating a systematic intimidation framework against Taiwan's cybersecurity professionals.

## 2. Targeted Sanctions Measures

Beijing continued targeted sanctions against "Taiwan independence diehards" and their associated enterprises, including sanctions on companies linked to Legislator Puma Shen's father, while creating false narratives that the DPP obstructs cross-strait exchanges. These measures represent an escalation in Beijing's economic coercion tactics against individuals and organizations it deems threatening to its Taiwan policy.

## 3. First Anniversary Propaganda of "22 Measures to Punish Independence"

China's Ministry of State Security claimed on June 28 to have cracked a series of Taiwan espionage cases involving theft of state secrets, elevating case operations involving Yang Chih-yuan, Fucha (Lee Yan-he), and Taiwan's Cyber Command as legal warfare tools. The Ministry declared its continued commitment to implementing the "22 Measures to Punish Independence," demonstrating Beijing's systematic approach to intimidating Taiwan independence advocates through legal mechanisms.

## 4. State-sponsored Terror

Czech military intelligence confirmed that Chinese diplomats planned to ram Vice President Hsiao Bi-khim's motorcade during her visit last year, prompting international condemnation. The U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee characterized this as "criminal behavior," while the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China termed it "state terrorism," highlighting the international community's growing concern over China's aggressive tactics. The Mainland Affairs Council received a threatening email demanding the removal of related news reports, or else a bomb would be set off in the Council's office building, demonstrating the escalation of intimidation tactics against Taiwan's government institutions.

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## ■ Taiwan's Strengthened Defensive Measures

### 1. President Lai's National Unity Discourse

President Lai Ching-te launched his "Ten Lectures on National Unity" series on

June 22nd, emphasizing the intersection of Taiwanese identity and Republic of China identity. He explicitly proposed "unity between Taiwan and ROC factions against communism," stating that "the People's Republic of China is not the motherland of the Republic of China." He put forward a framing of the recall campaign as "anti-communist, pro-Taiwan," emphasizing the refinement of national unity through democratic processes.

## 2. Legal Framework Enhancement

Taiwan strengthened its defensive legal architecture by studying enhanced restrictions on civil servants traveling to China, prohibiting military and government personnel from applying for Chinese residence permits, and preparing to submit the Executive Yuan version of the Cross-Strait Relations Act amendments. The government expanded travel controls to include all elected officials down to the level of borough chiefs, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to preventing Chinese influence operations.

## 3. Chinese Certificate Issues Management

The case of Fujian youth teacher Chang Li-chi, who had his Taiwanese citizenship revoked for obtaining a Chinese residence certification, highlighted the government's firm stance on dual status issues. Authorities reminded citizens that applying for Chinese "border tourism permits" (a kind of special passport enabling crossing into Russia at designated points) violates existing laws. Separately, they reiterated that Taiwanese men of military age must still return to Taiwan for mandatory military service, even if they have established residency in the PRC.

## 3. Current Status of Chinese Spouses' Loss of Original Nationality Proof

The June 30 deadline for Chinese spouses to provide proof of losing their original nationality created a significant administrative challenge. While 5,534 people completed submission of proof and 2,572 provided written statements, 2,237 individuals have failed to submit required documentation. The Immigration Agency pledged to exhaust all means to locate the missing individuals, with the Mainland Affairs Council promising maximum assistance to resolve this humanitarian issue.

## 4. Chinese Captain's Submarine Cable Sabotage Case Verdict

Tainan District Court sentenced the Chinese captain of the Chinese-backed Togo-flagged cargo ship "Hongtai 58" to three years' imprisonment on June 12th for illegally dropping anchor in a prohibited zone off Tainan's coast in February, severing the Taiwan-Penghu No. 3 submarine cable. The captain admitted to ordering the anchoring while denying intentional sabotage; however, the court convicted him under the Telecommunications Management Law for damaging cables. This landmark case represents Taiwan's first prosecution of a Chinese captain for intentionally damaging submarine cables. The incident cost Chunghwa Telecom over NT\$17 million in repair costs plus NT\$1.8 million in shipping agency fees.

## 5. National Security Case Investigations

The Investigation Bureau's probe into KMT staffer Lin Yueh-lung's suspected espionage activities, combined with concerns over leaked personal information of legislators and Legislative Yuan contact lists, prompted DPP calls for both opposition parties to jointly confront the spy problem. These developments underscore the persistent threat of Chinese intelligence operations and the critical need for cross-party cooperation in safeguarding national security.

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## ■ Information Warfare and Disinformation

### 1. New Patterns of Disinformation Characteristics

Taiwan continued to face sophisticated disinformation campaigns. Recent highlights included the false claims about "Ouyang Nana being banned from Taiwan" and "Huang An's citizenship being revoked," as well as fabricated videos claiming "Trump promotes Taiwan's UN membership." These incidents demonstrate the evolving sophistication of Beijing's information warfare capabilities, featuring new models of disinformation that quickly respond to policy movements and exploit current events to create confusion and undermine public trust in government institutions.

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## **President Delivers the Fourth Address of the "Ten Talks for National Unity"**

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*July 5th, 2025*

**Calls for Bipartisan Support for the Military and Defense Budget to**

## **Achieve Real Peace through Strength**

On the evening of July 1, during a Lions Clubs International event, President Lai Ching-te delivered the fourth address of his “Ten Talks for National Unity,” focusing on national defense. The President expressed his deep gratitude to all members of the armed forces for their dedication to defending the nation and emphasized the government’s commitment to improving military benefits and advancing defense reform. He urged all citizens, regardless of political affiliation, to support the military and the defense budget, highlighting that only through strength can real peace be achieved.

In his remarks, President Lai noted that, since taking office on May 20 last year, he has been contemplating how to unite the people, political parties, and the nation as a whole, to advance Taiwan’s progress while resisting external threats and preserving its hard-won democracy and freedom. As part of this mission, he accepted invitations from various civic organizations to deliver “Ten Talks.”

The first talk, he explained, focused on the “State,” referencing international law and Taiwan’s history to demonstrate that the People’s Republic of China has never ruled Taiwan and that Taiwan’s sovereignty does not belong to the PRC. He emphasized that Taiwan’s accomplishments in democracy, freedom, human rights, universal values, economic development, technology, and public health are widely recognized. Across all sectors, Taiwan has produced numerous unsung champions who excel on the global stage, demonstrating that the international community regards Taiwan as respectable and capable. These accomplishments are the result of our collective efforts and should be carefully safeguarded and cherished.

The second talk centered on “Unity.” President Lai cited the Democratic Progressive Party’s “Resolution on Ethnic Diversity and National Unity,” emphasizing that everyone who identifies with Taiwan, regardless of ethnicity or when they or their families arrived, belongs to the nation. Whether one identifies with the Republic of China or Taiwan, both represent forms of national identity that deserve mutual respect and understanding. He called for solidarity between ROC supporters and Taiwan supporters, stressing that ROC supporters uphold the ideals of anti-communism, while Taiwan supporters place an emphasis on protecting Taiwan. The shared goal of “resisting communism while protecting Taiwan” must be promoted for Taiwan’s security

and for democracy and human rights to thrive for future generations.

The third talk addressed Taiwan's "Constitutional Institutions." Although the ROC Constitution had been enacted on mainland China, seven constitutional amendments were passed since 1991 under the leadership of former President Lee Teng-hui and through the National Assembly members elected by the Taiwanese people. These amendments established a Taiwan-centered democratic consensus. The current Additional Articles of the Constitution clearly define the powers and responsibilities of the President and the five branches of government, ensuring mutual respect and checks and balances. This institutional framework is essential for a democracy that is sustainable and enduring. Taiwan's Constitution differs from those of many other countries in that it grants the people direct democratic rights, including elections, recalls, initiatives, and referenda. If the Legislative Yuan or local councils fail to reflect public opinion or pass needed legislation, the people can initiate laws themselves. If laws are passed that do not meet public needs, the people can challenge them through referenda. If elected legislators do not meet public expectations, the people can initiate a recall. President Lai emphasized that democracy's challenges must be met with greater democratic engagement, including constitutional interpretation or rulings by the Constitutional Court. These processes strengthen constitutional institutions and empower citizens to exercise their rights, an essential part of deepening democratic governance.

The fourth talk focused on "National Defense." President Lai cited Article 137, Paragraph 1 of the Constitution, which states: "The national defense of the Republic of China shall have as its objective the safeguarding of national security and the preservation of world peace." He further cited Article 138, which provides: "The land, sea, and air forces of the whole country shall be above personal, regional, or party affiliations, shall be loyal to the state, and shall protect the people." Accordingly, at every promotion or commissioning ceremony for senior military officers, the Constitution is invoked to remind them of their duty to serve the nation with loyalty and to care for its people.

President Lai described Taiwan's armed forces as a capable and respected force that defends not only the Republic of China but also the safety and well-being of all who live in Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu. Therefore, the Republic of China and these territories form a community of shared destiny. He cited the Battle of Guningtou in 1949 and the 823 Artillery Bombardment in 1958 as key examples of the military's prowess. Both were fought to resist communism and

protect Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu, as well as the Republic of China itself. Regardless of when people arrived in Taiwan, their ethnic background, or whether they served as conscripts or volunteers, civilians and soldiers stood shoulder to shoulder in defending their homeland and ultimately repelled the invaders. President Lai stressed that we must honor the brave service of those military personnel and civilians who fought in those battles, as their sacrifices laid the foundation for the stable society we enjoy today.

He also acknowledged the military's role in disaster relief and recovery. Whether it be major earthquakes in Hualien and Tainan, typhoons, pandemics, or avian influenza outbreaks, the military has consistently stepped in to assist with emergency response and reconstruction efforts. Taiwan has a long-standing tradition of mutual respect between the military and the public, with soldiers caring for the people, and citizens honoring the military. President Lai expressed deep gratitude for the military's unwavering dedication to protecting the nation. He emphasized that defending the country with one's life is a noble calling and that all citizens should recognize and appreciate the contributions of the armed forces and stand firmly behind them.

President Lai stated that the government remains committed to supporting the armed forces by continuously improving military pay and benefits. In addition to recent salary increases for civil servants, public school teachers, and military personnel, a new initiative announced in March further raised allowances for volunteer soldiers and combat units. During former President Tsai's administration, the government launched the "Hsing-An Project (興安專案)" to improve living and training conditions for service members. As of June this year, 87 military facility renovation projects have been completed, marking the largest-scale upgrade of barracks in decades. Looking ahead, the government will launch the "Chan-Hsing Project (展興專案)," which will run from next year through 2031, as a concrete commitment to further enhance the living conditions and overall well-being of service members.

President Lai emphasized that support for military families is also a key focus for the government, including childcare assistance, access to subsidized infant and toddler care programs, healthcare support, and opportunities for continuing education. Career development is encouraged through expanded training programs and partnerships with local schools. Other human-centered reforms include allowing personal travel abroad and, beginning in July 2025, priority boarding on international flights operated by Taiwan's six domestic

carriers. On Military Day (September 3), active-duty soldiers will also enjoy retail discounts, with more businesses encouraged to participate. These measures have achieved significant results under the professional leadership of Minister of National Defense Wellington Koo, who brings both a deep understanding of and genuine care for the military.

Addressing the growing threat posed by China, President Lai pointed out that China's military budget has steadily increased since 2000, surpassing NT\$8 trillion in 2025, a sevenfold increase over the past two decades. He observed that this trend is unrelated to which political party happens to be in power in Taiwan: even during periods when the Kuomintang was in power, China's defense spending grew at double-digit rates for many consecutive years. China's military buildup continues to undermine regional peace and stability. Its forces have already pushed beyond the first island chain, crossing the second and even reaching the third island chain. The threat facing Taiwan also affects neighboring countries. Moreover, China's national strategy aims to dominate the western Pacific and to reshape the rules-based international order. In other words, if Taiwan were annexed, it would not mark the end of China's ambitions; it would only strengthen its capacity for further regional expansion.

President Lai stated that China continues to launch both psychological and military intimidation campaigns against Taiwan. These include high-intensity gray zone coercion and efforts to infiltrate and exert united front influence over both active-duty and retired military personnel. Tactics have included leaking the personal information of service members, spreading false accusations and negative portrayals of the armed forces, exaggerating the capabilities of the PLA, and carrying out cyber harassment, all aimed at waging information and psychological warfare to sow distrust and fear, thereby undermining military morale. In addition, China frequently deploys military aircraft, naval vessels, and drones to disrupt Taiwan's security environment, and has even conducted missile tests and targeted military exercises in an attempt to intimidate both the armed forces and the Taiwanese public.

In response, Taiwan is accelerating defense reforms by drawing lessons from recent global conflicts, including the wars in Ukraine, and Gaza, and between Israel and Iran. Taiwan must embrace innovative thinking and emerging technologies to accelerate the development of an autonomous defense industry and enhance the combat capabilities of its armed forces. Strengthening defense is not only about increasing military power, it is also about standing shoulder-

to-shoulder with the global community of democracies. There is a saying that the heavens only help those who help themselves. Only by building strong defense capabilities can Taiwan achieve real peace through strength. That is the core goal of defense reform.

President Lai explained that Taiwan's military strategy is based on "resolute defense, multi-domain deterrence." In addition to countering gray-zone coercion, this approach features integrated measures such as joint anti-landing operations, coastal and beachhead defense, in-depth defense, and sustained combat. The goal is to build strategic endurance and defensive resilience, while developing the capability to deter and decisively defeat any adversary. The operational doctrine of the armed forces is centered on "multi-domain denial and resilient defense." This includes strengthening asymmetric capabilities, ensuring rapid readiness and response, adopting decentralized command structures, and prioritizing denial over control. By integrating various deterrence strategies and continuously raising the cost and difficulty for the adversary to carry out an attack, Taiwan aims to effectively safeguard national security.

Discussing Taiwan's current approach to military training, President Lai stated that, while maintaining core training objectives and military discipline, the armed forces are moving toward a more people-centered and streamlined model to build a modern military. This involves creating an environment where service members feel respected, cared for, and supported, while actively reducing unnecessary or in formalitic administrative burdens to enhance flexibility, adaptability, and innovation within the ranks. He emphasized the importance of deepening cooperation, joint training, and exchanges with the U.S. military – a world-class force – to significantly improve combat readiness and realism in training. At the same time, Taiwan is expanding investment in emerging technologies, strengthening cyber and electronic warfare capabilities, building a more robust reserve force, improving logistical support systems, and boosting morale and mental resilience, together forming the foundation of Taiwan's evolving defense training model.

In response to China's steadily increasing defense budget, President Lai noted that during the Ma Ying-jeou administration, Taiwan's defense spending did not grow; in fact, it declined year by year, with the defense budget's share of GDP dropping to around 2%. After former President Tsai took office, the government began steadily increasing the defense budget, demonstrating a

clear commitment to “strengthen national defense and support the military.” From NT\$359.6 billion in 2016 to NT\$606.8 billion last year, the defense budget rose by 80.74%, now accounting for 2.5% of GDP. He added that at the recent NATO leaders’ summit, member states pledged to raise their defense spending to 5% of GDP by 2035. In line with this global trend and to underscore Taiwan’s resolve to defend itself, the President announced after taking office that Taiwan’s defense budget would be raised to exceed 3% of GDP.

President Lai expressed his gratitude to the U.S. government for its continued fulfillment of commitments to Taiwan. Over the past five years, the U.S. has approved 30 arms sales to Taiwan, helping the nation acquire advanced weapon systems and significantly enhancing the military’s deterrence and defensive capabilities. These include the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), M1A2T tanks, MQ-9B drones, Switchblade 300 loitering munitions, Altius 600M attack drones, and the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS), all of which align with Taiwan’s defense needs. President Lai also noted that U.S. support for Taiwan has gone beyond arms sales. Washington has provided substantial assistance through multiple rounds of Foreign Military Financing (FMF) and Presidential Drawdown Authority (PDA), with total aid exceeding NT\$90 billion (US\$3.113 billion). In addition, various military training programs, joint exercises, and exchange initiatives have further strengthened Taiwan’s defense capabilities—clear evidence of the United States’ strong and sustained support for Taiwan.

President Lai emphasized that Taiwan is also advancing indigenous defense capabilities, including the AIDC T-5 Brave Eagle, Hai Kun submarine, CM-32 Armoured Vehicle, Panshih-class fast combat support ship, Kestrel rocket, and a range of missiles (Hsiung Feng, Tien Kung, and Tien Chien series). In terms of U.S.-Taiwan defense industrial cooperation, 26 U.S. defense firms specializing in drones, counter-drone systems, unmanned surface and underwater vehicles, military communications systems, and artificial intelligence visited Taiwan last year to explore the development of a joint Taiwan-U.S. defense supply chain. He stressed that Taiwan is not only focused on foreign military procurement, but it is also committed to building defense autonomy. Through joint R&D, design, and manufacturing with the United States, Taiwan can enhance its security, develop a robust domestic defense industry, and drive broader economic progress.

President Lai stated that the task of defending our nation should not be limited to the military, but rather requires the participation of ordinary citizens, civic groups, and local governments. Therefore, the Presidential Office has established the “Whole-of-Society Defense Resilience Committee,” which focuses on three key objectives: ensuring the continued operation of the government, essential social functions, as well as supporting military operations when necessary. President Lai emphasized that preparedness leads to greater safety, and strengthening nationwide defense capabilities is the most effective form of deterrence. Concrete results include over 10,000 alternative military service personnel having earned EMT-1 certification, with annual training sessions exceeding 154,000 participants. The government is also encouraging public participation in disaster response training. In addition, disaster coordination centers have been established across 368 townships and districts nationwide, creating a unified network between central and local governments. All municipalities are now conducting “urban resilience drills” to build a more capable civil defense system, one that not only enables communities to protect themselves, but also provides crucial support for national defense when needed.

President Lai stated that national defense is national security, yet it is regrettable that the Legislative Yuan has frozen and cut portions of the defense budget. He pointed out that the Taiwan Strait is a critical maritime corridor, accounting for one-fifth of global shipping trade. Peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait are vital to the global economy and the free trade system. Taiwan’s security is a matter of global concern, and maintaining peace and stability in the Strait serves the interests of the international community. This is why neighboring countries such as Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines have continued to increase their defense budgets year after year. Taiwan followed the same path during former President Tsai’s administration and continues to do so under the current government. Unfortunately, the opposition’s previous actions in freezing and cutting the defense budget in the legislature have sent the wrong signal to the international community, creating the false impression that Taiwan lacks the resolve to defend itself.

President Lai further noted that this year’s defense budget faced the largest freeze and cut in Taiwan’s history. A total of NT\$8.4 billion was cut, and at one point, up to NT\$89.94 billion was frozen, including funding for key programs such as the Hai Kun-class submarine. He also pointed out that many believe Taiwan should actively develop its drone industry. The National Chung-Shan

Institute of Science and Technology (NCSIST), therefore, plans to establish a “Drone and Aerospace Industrial Park” in Minsyong, Chiayi, a necessary step for national defense innovation. Unfortunately, during this year’s budget review, 50% of the funding for the Minsyong drone park was frozen. Moreover, lifting a budget freeze is not as simple as unfreezing the funds, it disrupts operations and sends confusing signals internationally. Many international partners have expressed concern that Taiwan’s budget cuts and freezes may reflect a lack of determination to defend itself. Such misperceptions can severely damage Taiwan’s image and undermine confidence in its commitment to self-defense.

President Lai stressed that real peace can only be achieved through strength. While peace is a noble ideal, we must not hold any illusions—peace is priceless, and in war, there are no true winners. Peace cannot be secured through mere agreements or by yielding to the demands of aggressors. Citing the lessons of World War II, President Lai explained that prior to the war, many believed that appeasing aggressors would bring peace, but history proved otherwise. Another key lesson is that aggression ultimately leads to failure. For that reason, those who have experienced aggression should never become aggressors themselves. Taiwan will never initiate war; rather, it is committed to defending the nation and preserving the democratic, free, and peaceful way of life that its people cherish. Taiwan’s goal is to safeguard not only its own sovereignty, but also protect the status quo and the peace of the region and the world.

Turning to the Executive Yuan’s NT\$410 billion special budget, President Lai stressed its goals to support industry, protect employment, safeguard livelihoods, and strengthen national defense resilience. Of the total, NT\$150 billion is allocated specifically for enhancing defense resilience, with a focus on three main areas: bolstering homeland defense capabilities, improving maritime surveillance around Taiwan, and upgrading information and communications infrastructure and equipment. An additional NT\$100 billion will be used to subsidize Taipower to cover the losses it incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, when it froze electricity prices in line with government policy, helping to avoid price hikes and stabilize the cost of living. In contrast, the opposition has proposed a blanket cash handout of NT\$10,000 per person, which would cost NT\$230 billion. President Lai underscored that the government believes in using the surplus for long-term investments in national security and energy stability, rather than short-term one-time spending.

President Lai concluded by pointing out that July is “National Solidarity Month,” including major events such as the Han Kuang military exercise as well as municipal-level resilience drills. “Unity ensures victory; aggression guarantees defeat. The safer Taiwan is, the safer the world will be. The more prepared we are, the stronger global democracy becomes,” he said, calling on all parties to stand with the military and support the defense budget. “The nation belongs to everyone. Political parties may compete, but the nation must not be sacrificed.” He expressed hope that all parties, regardless of affiliation or political position, will come together in support of critical national priorities such as defense and foreign affairs.

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## **President Lai: Military Training Protects Peace and Freedom**

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*July 11th, 2025*

On July 10, while overseeing the first live-fire exercise of Taiwan's newest tanks, the US-made M12ATs, President Lai Ching-te commended the military for its

efforts to upgrade their training and readiness. He reiterated his commitment to stand with the military, not least by continuing to provide resources to strengthen our national defense.

He began by observing that this month marks “National Unity Month.” In addition to various local urban resilience drills, all our officers and soldiers are now participating in the annual “Han Kuang 41” military exercise.

He noted that this year, we are adopting an “extreme training” approach — conducting large-scale, unscripted, and realistic combat drills. The goal is to put the military’s regular training to the test and verify the effectiveness of our “resolute defense and layered deterrence” strategy.

President Lai went on to praise the live-fire exercises of the M1A2T tanks, which were acquired from the U.S in a sale authorized in 2019, noting that these advanced tanks possess powerful striking capabilities and high mobility — they truly deserve the title of the world’s most powerful tanks. In the future, the M1A2T will be integrated with drones and other advanced weapons. Combined with the military’s continued innovation in tactics and strategies, this will further help us achieve our strategic objectives.

President Lai stated he understands that our military members are working tirelessly, whether training abroad in the U.S. or continuing training at home. Every bit more training means more combat readiness. More readiness means greater national security — and greater regional peace.

He concluded that preparedness brings security: the government will continue to provide resources to strengthen our national defense and stand firmly alongside our military to protect our hard-earned freedom and democracy.

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