
A Chronology

Britain's new U.S.-China 'war'

A chronology of the scare now flooding the U.S. and British press, alleging that the United States and China are about to go to war over Taiwan, shows that the story is largely British hype. Spokesmen for the British-controlled Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C. have repeatedly said that they plan to attack President Clinton for being "soft on China" during the Presidential campaign.

Jan. 11: The *Far East Economic Review*, founded by the London *Economist* and now owned by the Hollinger Corp.'s pals at AP Dow Jones, accuses U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry of illegally permitting sales of military-grade fiber optics to a Chinese Army firm. House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) ally Rep. Floyd Spence (R-S.C.) demands a National Security Committee investigation.

Jan. 24: The *New York Times* runs a front-page story, "China Threatens Taiwan, Makes Sure U.S. Listens," asserting that former Bush Assistant Secretary of Defense Charles Freeman told a National Security Council meeting on Jan. 4, that Beijing "has prepared plans for a missile attack against Taiwan." It asserts that Freeman quoted Chinese officials saying that "China could act militarily against Taiwan without fear of intervention by the U.S., because American leaders care more about Los Angeles than they do about Taiwan." The *Times* states that Freeman called this "an indirect threat by China to use nuclear weapons against the U.S."

Jan. 31: U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor, a British asset, threatens China with \$1 billion in trade sanctions for "piracy" of Hollywood movies and CDs, in a speech in Washington. China must not become "another Japan," he demands. Kantor's deputy Lee Sands announces plans to travel to China on Feb. 8 to "inspect" factories for piracy.

Feb 4: Reports from Taiwan say that there is no concern at all there, and that everyone in Taipei is wondering what the hysteria in the Washington press is all about.

Feb 4: Taiwan and China will resume high-level talks after Taiwan's Presidential elections on March 23, Shi Hwei-yow, deputy secretary general of Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation, tells state radio.

Feb. 4: Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui announces that if re-elected in March, he will no longer travel to the United States, removing a major source of China-Taiwan friction.

Feb 4: Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng tells newspapers

that China will not follow the "capitalist" model (as practiced by the International Monetary Fund in Russia) of reform of State enterprises, and will not allow bankruptcies and layoffs, for fear of mass unemployment. "If China were to use such capitalist methods, it would shirk its responsibility to the people and it would trigger social unrest," Li said. "There was one firm that cut more than 100,000 jobs in one shot. Obviously, we could not do that."

Feb. 4: Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, the former ambassador to Washington who has a good personal relationship with President Clinton, arrives in Washington to discuss strengthening ties.

Feb. 5: The British-controlled *Sing Tao Daily* in Hong-kong reports that China will begin a mass-scale military exercise that week involving 400,000 infantry, Air Force, and Navy personnel in coastal areas opposite Taiwan, to last more than a month.

Feb. 5: Every major U.S. and British newspaper picks up the *Sing Tao Daily* story, and run front-page stories, such as the *Washington Post's* "China Planning Maneuvers off Taiwan." The article, completely unsourced, cites "U.S. officials" saying that China plans massive military exercises in the Taiwan Straits. It claims that a decision to form a "Pentagon-led task force" was made at a Jan. 19 White House meeting to assess "how Washington might respond to a direct attack on Taiwan."

Feb. 5: State Department spokesman Glyn Davies, under an hour of questioning by reporters on China's plans for war, denies any such threat. "It's our understanding that the Chinese have not announced any military exercises in the Taiwan Strait region," he states. "I don't have any information that would indicate there's evidence of preparations."

Feb. 6: A London *Times* editorial, "Stand By Taiwan," charges China is menacing the world and "could decide on a preemptive strike" against Taiwan, "forcing a rupture between China and America with global implications."

Feb. 6: The London *Financial Times*, in an op-ed entitled "China's Uncomfortable Embrace," devotes a full page to depicting a menacing Chinese panda strangling Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui. It quotes David Shambaugh of the London School of Oriental Studies (the East India Company's current form) saying that China's aging leaders have decided they must retake Taiwan by force before they die.

Feb. 6: A.M. Rosenthal, a mouthpiece for the Anti-Defamation League, in a *New York Times* op-ed, says that China is a military and a commercial dumping threat to the world. Rosenthal has recently penned several editorials denouncing Chinese "genocide" in Tibet.

Feb. 6: Defense Secretary Perry tells a Washington press conference: "I do not see the prospects for military confrontation between China and Taiwan in the foreseeable future, but I am concerned about the military buildup that's going on in China today. . . . However, I do not see this as a threat. I do not anticipate military conflict."