

# Chinese Patriots Move To Defuse Ignition of a Cross-Strait Crisis

by Leni Rubinstein

The Cheney-Bush Administration's so-called preventive war doctrine, combined with the underlying collapse of the international financial system, are dangerously escalating the danger of a U.S. confrontation with China. Taiwan, for quite some time, has been played as a pawn in the Anglo-American push for global neo-colonialism, and was seen as a key player to be used to provoke a future confrontation with China.

At the end of March, the Commander of the U.S. forces in the Pacific, Adm. William Fallon, voiced his "apprehension about China's military expansion and its intentions towards Taiwan." Fallon said that his priorities as head of the largest of nine U.S. military commands, would be fighting the war on terror, and building regional military cooperation so "we can put ourselves in a position where we can respond quickly." Fallon also described the China-Taiwan situation as the second most dangerous flashpoint in the region after the Korean Peninsula. Also in March, CIA chief Porter Goss cited the tensions in the Taiwan Strait, as one of the five security concerns around the world that could have serious consequences.

These statements come on the heels of the agreement between Japan and the United States to identify Taiwan as a shared security concern, and a push from the United States for Japan to amend its Constitution, and change Article 9, in order for Japan to be able to take an active military role. Recently, several scholars in Taiwan compared Japan's role in Asia to that of Israel in the Middle East, stating that the current Japanese government is completely loyal to the present U.S. Administration, and pointing out that developments in the United States will determine Japan's actions. The Bush Administration's designate to become the Ambassador to the UN, John Bolton, if accepted, will serve to escalate the tensions. Bolton is one of the most ardent supporters of Taiwan's independence in the Bush Administration, and has repeatedly, and publicly, advocated that Washington recognize Taiwan's independence and admission into the UN.

The media hype that followed China's enacting of the anti-secession law on March 14, has been the pretext for not covering the initiatives in the last several months to strengthen the collaboration across the Taiwan Strait. These include, most notably, the direct flights between mainland China and Taiwan during the Chinese New Year this past February (the first such direct flights in over 50 years), and, very impor-

tantly, the long-planned, and recently concluded, trip of a high-level delegation from Taiwan to mainland China.

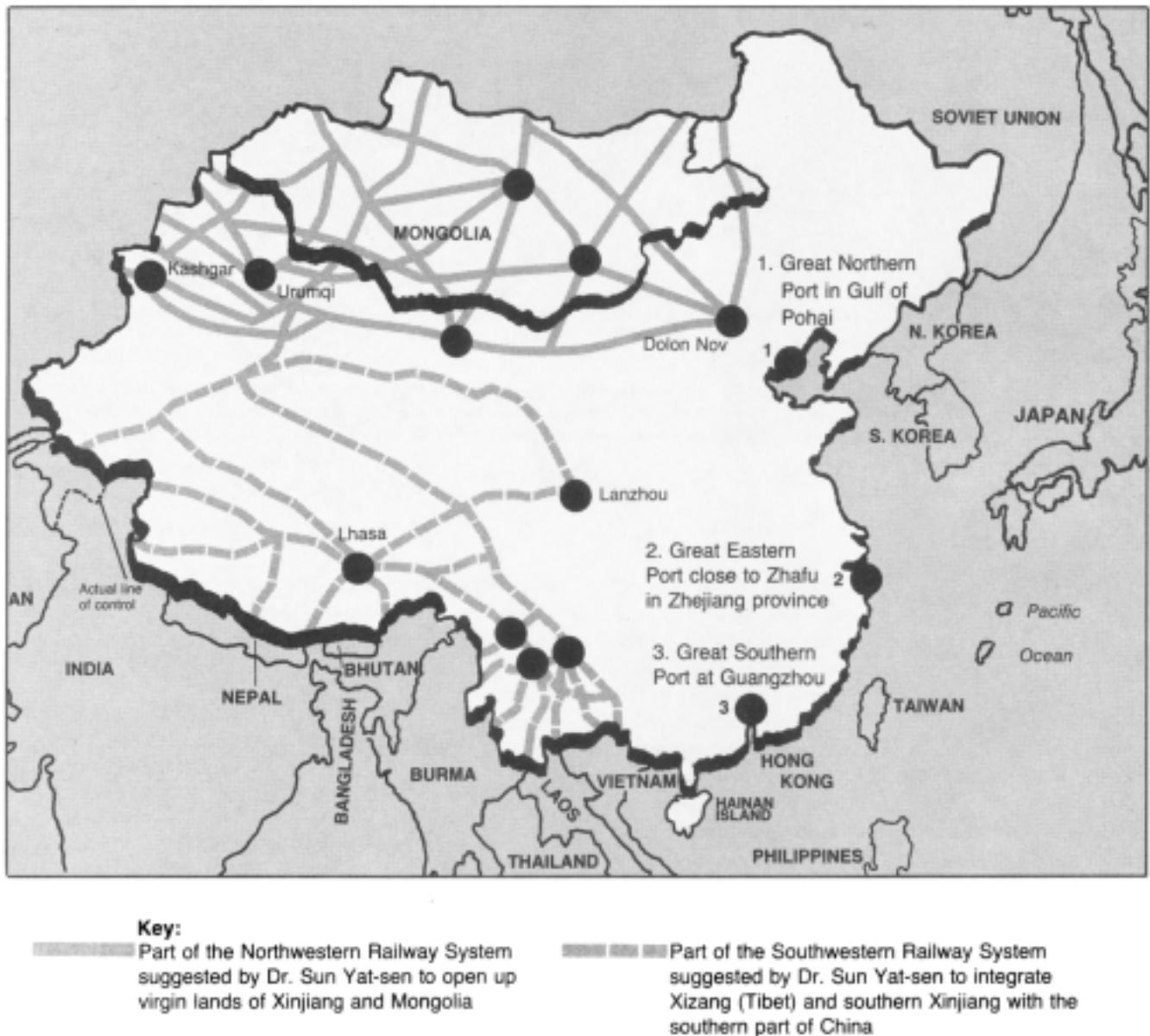
## **A Truly Historical Mission: Third Round of Talks**

At the end of March, a high-level 34-member delegation of the leading opposition party in Taiwan, the Kuomintang (KMT), left for a week-long, peace-seeking trip to China. The delegation was led by KMT Vice Chairman Chiang Pin-kung, and was carried out on behalf of Lien Chan, the KMT chairman. It was the KMT's first official visit ever to the People's Republic of China.

The delegation was sent with the intention of carrying out Lien Chan's promise for a so-called "third round of talks" between the KMT and the Chinese Communist Party, to resume the long-stalled cross-strait dialogue, and to help pave the way for Lien to visit Beijing in June for a meeting with President Hu Jin-tao. Lien's "third round of talks" refers to two historical precedents of collaboration: first, the two parties worked together in 1924, when KMT founder Dr. Sun Yat-sen accepted members of the Communist Party as members of the Kuomintang, and, secondly in 1936, when President Chiang Kai-shek initiated the second collaboration, which paved the way for a united front with the Communist Party against Japanese aggression.

The historic implications of the trip were deliberately made very obvious. Before proceeding to Beijing, the delegation first paid tribute at the cemetery in Guangzhou to the 72 young martyrs who died in the 1911 Hwanghuagang Uprising against the imperial rulers. Then they went to Nanjing (which had been the Republic of China's capital, when the KMT was still the ruling party on the mainland), to pay their respects at the mausoleum of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the father of modern China, and the founder of both the KMT and the Republic of China (R.O.C.). As Lien Chan stated in sending off the delegation: "This year marks the 80th anniversary of R.O.C. national founding father Dr. Sun Yat-sen's death, and the 94th anniversary of the Hwanghuagang Uprising. Without the revolution led by Sun and the Hwanghuagang Uprising staged by the martyrs, the R.O.C. would not have come into existence. Those events have sacred meanings to the KMT. Therefore, the delegation's visit bears profound historical significance."

## Railway System Proposed by Dr. Sun Yat-Sen



*Sun led the overthrow of imperial rulers in China, and proposed extensive infrastructural development of Eurasia. An admirer of Abraham Lincoln, he also studied German-American economist Friedrich List's book "On National Economy." Here is his proposal for a railroad network throughout China, intended to serve China's neighbors as well.*

The death of the 72 martyrs, on March 29, 1911, has been designated as the R.O.C.'s National Youth Day.

Chiang Pin-kung, the 73-year-old leader of the delegation, who was the engineer of the "go slow, be patient" policy under the former KMT administration, and who is an advocate of direct air and shipping links with China, was given the "red carpet" treatment throughout the trip. Laying the foundation for the deliberations, by honoring the memory of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, is of great importance. Sun's leadership in overthrowing

the imperial rulers of China, and his subsequent policy proposal of 1919, "On the International Development of China," in which he wrote that the basis for peace is a collaboration among nations for a common principle of mutual development, are of crucial importance today. Not only did Dr. Sun have a clear understanding of the British geopolitical gameplans, but he was also a great admirer and student of Abraham Lincoln, and, as a young man, had intensely studied German-American economist Friedrich List's book *On Na-*



*At the end of March, the leading Taiwan opposition Kuomintang (KMT) party, went on a week-long peace-seeking trip to China, its first official visit ever to the P.R.C., to set up a third round of talks with the Communist Party. The two parties had first worked together in 1924, when Dr. Sun Yat-sen (shown here), accepted members of the Communist Party in the KMT.*

*tional Economy*, which he later ordered be translated into the Chinese language. List was an outspoken opponent of the British free-trade system. In his 1919 program, Sun outlined the proposal for the economic development of Eurasia, spanning through Africa. This is the foundation for Lyndon LaRouche's Eurasian Land-Bridge proposal, as well as the basis for many of the current economic development projects being built in China, such as the Three Gorges Dam.

The mission to initiate a "third round of talks" was successful. On March 31, Jia Qinglin, a senior Communist Party leader, invited KMT Chairman Lien Chan to visit mainland China at "any time he thinks appropriate." Also James Soong (former Governor of Taiwan and leader of the second-largest opposition party, the People First Party, PFP) was invited. The invitation was extended on behalf of the Chairman of the Communist Party of China, Hu Jin-tao. As Jia Qinglin said, at the 80th anniversary of Dr. Sun Yat-sen's death, such activities "are of great significance for upholding and carrying forward the spirit of maintaining national unity and combatting secession, and was thus advocated by Dr. Sun himself."

During their visit, Chian Pin-kung's delegation reached a ten-point consensus with the Beijing authorities on such issues as cross-strait charter flights, agricultural cooperation (including offering preferential policies for fruit and vegetable exports from Taiwan, and inviting land-owning farmers to invest in China), protection for China-based businessmen, and journalistic exchanges.

Part of the success of this mission is also the result of the activities of the above-mentioned senior Taiwan leader, James Soong, who on Feb. 24 met with President Chen Shui-bian of the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), after which a ten-point joint statement was issued, agreeing to put aside partisan interest in the pursuit of cross-strait peace. They stated, that to protect Taiwan's interests, it was vital to "find viable solutions to the issues of importance, such as permanent peace across the Taiwan Strait, and the

normalization of cross-strait relations." And, in point number six, they declared that "they would not exclude any possibility of establishing future relations between the two sides of the strait, in any form whatsoever." (See *Documentation*.)

The joint statement also meant Soong's endorsement (and Chen's recommitment) to the "five no's" policy Chen launched in his first Presidential term, to guarantee that he would not seek Taiwan's independence, while being President. The "five no's" are: "During his term as President, he will not declare independence, will not change the national name, will not push forward the inclusion of the so-called 'state-to-state' in the Constitution, will not promote a referendum to change the status quo in regards to the issue of independence or unification. Finally, the abolition of neither the National Unification Council, nor the National Unification Guidelines will be set forth as an issue." At the press conference issuing the joint declaration, Soong, who is on friendly terms with Beijing, and might soon pay an official visit there, emphasized that "independence is absolutely not an option" for the island.

This was a renewed effort to end four years of animosity, that has split Taiwan into two opposing camps: one led by Chen's pro-independence DPP, and the other by the pro-China opposition KMT and PFP; the latter two hold the majority in the parliament since the December 2004 legislative elections. Also, it sent an important message to Beijing, that efforts were being made to curb the propaganda of the pro-independence camp.

The reactions came promptly: KMT Chairman Lien Chan, who campaigned in last March's Presidential race with Soong as his running mate, said that the joint declaration sounded like "something that the KMT would have said." Other high-ranking KMT leaders told *EIR*, that this could split the opposition, as Chen cannot be trusted. Former President Lee Teng-hui (dubbed some years ago by Lyndon LaRouche as the "Puppet Emperor" for the role he plays as a tool for neo-colonial forces) declared the ten-point statement to be "ridiculous" and "illegitimate," and described the Chen-Soong meeting as a situation in which "a ghost hunter gets caught by a ghost," meaning, the hunter has turned himself into the prey he is trying to hunt.

In a speech a few days later, Lee stated that Taiwan has to declare that it is a separate state, and that it has nothing to do with a "barbarious, aggressive China." And the Taiwan Solidarity Union (TSU), a party which is a brain-child of Lee, threatened to break its ties with the DPP. James Soong intends, as a follow-up to the joint ten-point declaration, to present a Peace Treaty to the parliament in the near future, which, upon its implementation, would pave the way for opening up direct links (trade, mail, air travel, and shipping) to the mainland, among other accomplishments.

### **The Anti-Secession Law**

In addition, *EIR* was told by several well-informed individuals, that the Soong-Chen declaration directly, and in a

very positive way, influenced the final wording of the anti-secession law—in particular the last two points—that China adapted March 14. (See box.)

Whether the massive, well-organized international propaganda blitz against the anti-secession law will create the opposite impact of the intention of its drafters to prevent Taiwan from changing the status quo, is doubtful. Certainly, the propaganda created some hysteria in Taiwan, but it gave a totally false image of reality.

Firstly, it had been known for months that this anti-secession law was under preparation. Secondly, it contains virtually nothing that is new. It is a reiteration of Chinese policy, as is well-known to Taiwan and the United States. The law is clearly a move to counter the increasingly transparent actions by Taiwan towards independence over the last six years, ranging from then-President Lee Teng-hui's assertion in 1999 that Taiwan and the mainland had "special state-to-state relations," to President Chen Shui-bian's statement in 2002, that there was "one country on each side" of the Taiwan Strait.

The new law says its purpose is to oppose and check "Taiwan's secession from China," and further, that "both the mainland and Taiwan belong to one China," a formulation first used by the KMT government in Taiwan, when it was in power (from 1949-2000).

All the propaganda, internationally and locally, is also



*In 1936, Chiang Kai-shek initiated the second collaboration between the KMT and the Communist Party, which paved the way for a united front of the two parties against Japanese aggression.*

quite hypocritical, since Taiwan's current laws also do not allow secession, and in certain sections, the Chinese words used, are almost identical to those of the new law from China. The National Security Law of the R.O.C., issued in 1987, says in Article II, that public demonstrations, group gatherings, or meetings "must not violate the constitution, advocate commu-

## Chinese Anti-Secession Law

*Here is the full text, as issued by the Chinese Xinhua News Agency, of the Anti-Secession Law, adopted at the Third Session of the Tenth National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China on March 14, 2005.*

**Article I:** This law is formulated, in accordance with the Constitution, for the purpose of opposing and checking Taiwan's secession from China by secessionists in the name of "Taiwan independence," to promote peaceful national reunification, maintain peace and stability in the Taiwan Straits, preserve China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and safeguard the fundamental interests of the Chinese nation.

**Article II:** There is only one China in the world. Both the mainland and Taiwan belong to one China. China's sovereignty and territorial integrity brook no division. Safeguarding China's sovereignty and territorial integrity is the common obligation of all Chinese people, the Taiwan compatriots included.

Taiwan is part of China. The state shall never allow the "Taiwan independence" secessionist forces to make

Taiwan to secede from China under any name or by any means.

**Article III:** The Taiwan question is one that is left over from China's civil war of the late 1940s. Solving the Taiwan question and achieving national reunification is China's internal affair, which is subject to no interference by any outside forces.

**Article IV:** Accomplishing the great task of reunifying the motherland is the sacred duty of all Chinese people, the Taiwan compatriots included.

**Article V:** Upholding the principle of one China is the basis of peaceful reunification of the country.

To reunify the country through peaceful means best serves the fundamental interests of the compatriots on both sides of the Taiwan Straits. The state shall do its utmost with maximum sincerity to achieve a peaceful reunification.

After the country is reunified peacefully, Taiwan may practice systems different from those on the mainland and enjoy a high degree of autonomy.

**Article VI:** The state shall take the following measures to maintain peace and stability in the Taiwan Straits and promote cross-Straits relations: 1) to encourage and facilitate personnel exchanges across the Straits for greater mutual understanding and mutual trust; 2) to encourage and facilitate economic exchanges and cooperation, realize

nism, or advocate the separation of the national territory. Article V states, “that anyone who intentionally endangers the safety of the country, or the tranquility of the society, and operate against the law as stated in Article II, will receive a jail-sentence of up to five years.”

Even additional Articles in the Constitution adopted in 1991 under President Lee Teng-hui, assume that Taiwan eventually will be reunified with mainland China, and further, that the territory of the R.O.C. includes both the mainland and Taiwan, although only Taiwan belongs to the “free area” of the republic. President Hu Jin-tao, in a speech in March, pointed this out, saying that “the existing regulations and documents in Taiwan” also support a “one China” principle.

The propaganda against the anti-secession law, however, was enormous, and only a few dissenting voices were allowed. When a group of top scholars and parliamentarians convened a press conference in support of the law, only two reporters attended, one from Hongkong and one from Beijing. It is well-known in Taiwan, that the media control by the pro-independence forces is so great—through threats of withdrawal of advertisements and other pressures—that it is difficult for the pro-China opposition to have a voice. A few were heard though: KMT Chairman Lien Chan said about the law: “Now that China has declared its willingness to terminate the hostile situation between China and Taiwan, as long as we

do not declare independence, China will not attack Taiwan.” Chairman of the Council for Industrial and Commercial Development Wang Tiao-chun (who arranged the recent direct flight over New Year’s) expressed a similar sentiment, saying that he saw the anti-secession law as positive, because it is meant to pacify the forces promoting independence, rather than creating an excuse to attack Taiwan. Others commented that China wanted a law for foreign consumption, particularly by the United States and Japan, that would spell out China’s stance on cross-Taiwan-Straits relations. James Soong called for the adherence to the ten-point declaration issued Feb. 24.

Although similar views were expressed privately, only rarely were they expressed publicly; instead, an effort to launch a public opinion backlash against China ensued, internationally, and even to a greater degree in Taiwan. Lee Teng-hui called on Japan to refrain from sitting idly by in the face of China’s anti-secession law, saying that the Japanese government should take action to block Beijing’s legislation. Prime Minister Hsieh (DPP) proposed to launch a defensive referendum; TSU proposed an anti-annexation law, and Chen Shui-bian compared the law to a “two-pronged strategy of wielding of a non-peaceful Chinese guillotine, and the offering of small favors in return.”

The propaganda peaked at the 300-500,000-person rally in Taipei March 26, some 250,000 of whom were bused,

direct links of trade, mail, and air and shipping services, and bring about closer economic ties between the two sides of the Straits to their mutual benefit; 3) to encourage and facilitate cross-Straits exchanges in education, science, technology, culture, health, and sports, and work together to carry forward the proud Chinese cultural traditions; 4) to encourage and facilitate cross-Straits cooperation in combatting crimes; and 5) to encourage and facilitate other activities that are conducive to peace and stability in the Taiwan Straits and stronger cross-Straits relations.

The state protects the rights and interests of the Taiwan compatriots in accordance with law.

**Article VII:** The state stands for the achievement of peaceful reunification through consultations and negotiations on an equal footing between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits. These consultations and negotiations may be conducted in steps and phases, and with flexible and varied modalities.

The two sides of the Taiwan Straits may consult and negotiate on the following matters: 1) officially ending the state of hostility between the two sides; 2) mapping out the development of cross-Straits relations; 3) steps and arrangements for peaceful national reunification; 4) the political status of the Taiwan authorities; 5) the Taiwan region’s room of international operation that is compatible with its status; and 6) other matters concerning the achieve-

ment of peaceful national reunification.

**Article VIII:** In the event that the “Taiwan independence” secessionist forces should act under any name or by any means to cause the fact of Taiwan’s secession from China, or that major incidents entailing Taiwan’s secession from China should occur, or that possibilities for a peaceful reunification should be completely exhausted, the state shall employ non-peaceful means and other necessary measures to protect China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The State Council and the Central Military Commission shall decide on, and execute the non-peaceful means and other necessary measures as provided for in the preceding paragraph and shall promptly report to the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress.

**Article IX:** In the event of employing non-peaceful means and other necessary measures as provided for in this law, the state shall exert its utmost to protect the lives, property, and other legitimate rights and interests of Taiwan civilians and foreign nationals in Taiwan, and to minimize losses.

At the same time, the state shall protect the rights and interests of the Taiwan compatriots in other parts of China in accordance with law.

**Article X:** This law shall come into force on the day of its promulgation.

or transported by chartered trains from around the island. A populist, street theater “goat-market” ensued. People had their cheeks stamped with big red hearts, with “Love” written inside the hearts, or green circles, with the word “Peace,” and had been encouraged to bring their pets—which they did—decked out with toy missiles and posters.

However, on the very day of the rally, a bombshell was dropped by the well-known businessman and founder of the Chi Mei Group, Shi Wen-long, member of the DPP and advisor to President Chen, which let some of the air out of the frenzied demonstrators. He issued the following statement: “I think both Taiwan and China belong to one China, and people on the two sides of the Taiwan Strait are all fellow countrymen. I feel Taiwan’s economy could hardly separate from the mainland, and I oppose Taiwan independence, because promoting independence would lead Taiwan to war and bring disasters to the Taiwanese people. I felt relieved after China enacted the anti-secession law, and Hu promised to protect the interests of Taiwanese investments on the mainland.” Shi offered to quit as a national policy advisor to President Chen Shui-bian.

A couple of days later, a second businessman, Stan Shih, announced that he wanted to relinquish his position as an advisor to the President. Shih, who founded the largest Taiwanese computer maker, Acer Group, said to the press that he wanted to underscore his neutrality in politics. Two other big businessmen, Chang Yung-fa of Evergreen Marine, and Wang Yung-ching of the Formosa Plastics Group, have been sharply criticizing the government of Chen Shui-bian for quite a while, for failing to lift the 56-year-old ban on direct air and shipping links with China. Taiwan has invested about \$100 billion in mainland China, and last year 67% of Taiwan’s total foreign investment went to China, up from 34% in 2000, making Taiwan’s economy more and more dependent upon that of the mainland. Taiwan’s Economics Minister, Ho Mei-yueh, stated in March, that “it is undeniable, that China is an important impetus in fueling Taiwan’s economic growth . . . if the government’s cross-strait industrial development policy is too strict, discouraging businesses to invest in China, Taiwan will lose its competitiveness.” Also the European Chamber of Commerce in Taipei recently called for Taiwan to lift its bans on imports of European products manufactured in China, and to pursue further Chinese economic ties.

So, Chen Shui-bian’s government is placed between a rock and a hard place. The pro-independence DPP does not have the majority in the parliament, has very little room to maneuver vis-à-vis China, is under great pressure to create a healthy economy, and will have to loosen up with respect to limiting business, investment, and other ties, to the mainland.

All this in an atmosphere in which Chiang Pin-kung has strengthened, in Taiwan, the pro-China sentiment, and the tradition of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, on his recently completed historic mission.

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## Documentation

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### Taiwan Leaders Agree To Dump Anti-China Posture

*This is the joint Statement of Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian and Chairman James Soong (former Governor of Taiwan, and leader of the second-largest opposition party, People First Party, the PFP), issued on Feb. 25, 2005. The agreement opposes Taiwan’s secession from China, and instead emphasizes implementing a program for establishing peaceful relations. It was published in the China Post.*

In order to safeguard the national interests of the Republic of China and to ensure the rights of the people of Taiwan to pursue freedom, democracy, peace, and prosperity, it is crucial that we confront the situation and find viable solutions to the issues of importance, that being: permanent peace across the Taiwan Strait, and the normalization of cross-strait relations.

Both the governing party and the opposition must transcend partisan agendas. Our perspective and approach must be all-encompassing and farsighted with historic perspectives, in dealing with the vital issues of cross-strait peace, national defense and security, and ethnic harmony. Both President Chen and Chairman Soong hold to the view that forging a consensus on national development through consultation and dialogue between the governing and opposition parties, is the only way we can create a new and stable environment for the future of Taiwan.

After a candid exchange of views, we have concurred on a ten-point agreement, as follows:

#### Cross-Strait Peace

1. According to the Constitution of the Republic of China, our country’s status and position is defined as the de facto and de jure status quo existing between the two sides of the Strait; both sides of the Strait, and the international community, must recognize and respect this designation.

2. These principles should be the present basis for cross-strait relations: “adherence to the Constitution, maintenance of status quo, and cooperation in promoting peace.” On the premise of cross-strait peace, President Chen commits to the following pledges: that during his term as President, he will not declare independence, will not change the national moniker, will not put forth the inclusion of the so-called “state-to-state” description in the Constitution, and will not promote a referendum to change the status quo in regards to the issue of independence or unification. Furthermore, the abolition of

neither the National Reunification Council nor the National Reunification Guidelines will be set forth as an issue. Chairman Soong has expressed his consent and support for the position stated above.

3. To bolster national competitiveness and enhance governmental efficiency, it is necessary to garner consensus among the governing and opposition parties regarding constitutional reform. President Chen and Chairman Soong both agree and pledge that the constitutional reform project will not involve issues of national sovereignty, territory, or status quo across the Strait; and that the reform project will follow due procedure as set forth in the Constitution.



*Chen Shui-bian*

4. Military intimidation or actions to suppress Taiwan's international space, are not conducive to the improvement of cross-strait relations. To promote normalization of cross-strait relations and to establish a "peace and stability" framework for interactions, we must consolidate a consensus from the governing and opposition parties, and expedite the establishment of a mechanism, and a legal basis for cross-strait peace and development.

5. Reinforcement of cross-strait economic, cultural, and academic exchange. Moreover, based on the successful Lunar New Year model, which marked the initiation of direct chartered passenger flights, we will, through consultation and negotiation with the other side, phase in additional measures to facilitate convenient and efficient chartered cargo flights, eventually leading to the realization of three links. We realized that more than three years have passed since the Economic Development Advisory Conference took place, and that it is time to make adjustments on regulations that affect the development of our industries and our national competitiveness, if we are to carry out the consensus reached during the Economic Development Advisory Conference, "Cultivating Taiwan while reaching out to the world."

6. Any change to the status quo of the Taiwan Strait must come with the consent of the twenty-three million people of Taiwan. On the basis of goodwill from both sides, we would not exclude any possibility to establish future relations between the two sides, in any form whatsoever.

## **National Security**

7. Taiwan needs sufficient national defense capabilities to ensure peace across the Taiwan Strait. In the future, with "security of the nation, stability across the Taiwan Strait, peace throughout the region" as our strategic objectives, Taiwan will substantiate necessary arms and military equipment

for our national defense.

8. In order to ease tensions in the Taiwan Strait, Taiwan will not engage in an arms race with the other side; furthermore, Taiwan will proactively seek to establish a "military buffer zone" as well as a consultation mechanism for building confidence in military security across the Taiwan Strait.

## **Ethnic Harmony**

9. In the spirit of ethnic equality as laid out in our Constitution, any form of language or behavior which constitutes discrimination or aggression toward any ethnic group shall be subject to punishment according to law. Both parties will advocate for legal mechanisms to protect the rights of various ethnic groups and promote harmony and equality amongst them.



*James Soong*

10. President Chen and Chairman Soong have made a joint commitment to prioritize the easing of ethnic tension, and, to actively promote harmony and solidarity amongst ethnic groups. The Government should strive to ensure fair and equal rights and status for all ethnic populations in areas including politics, economy, social issues, education, culture, and examinations.

We maintain that the resolution of cross-strait issues should be based on the principle of putting "Taiwan First." The future of both sides of the Strait rests in our ability to resolve these matters wisely, through consultations between the peoples of both sides. The governing party and opposition parties must use greater tolerance and compassion, and respect the differing positions and ideals of all political parties and ethnic groups, so we can find greatest wisdom with which to break through not only the divides amongst governing and opposition parties, but the political impasse across the Strait as well.

We believe that for no matter what the conflict, there is always a resolution; that all animosities can be resolved; and, that all historical disputes can be settled. Only if we can walk away from the political shadows of the past fifty years—only then, can we find new opportunities for the progress and development of our country.

President Chen and Chairman Soong have candidly exchanged opinions and have engaged in thorough discussions in this meeting. In order to enhance the welfare of all the people, both President Chen and Chairman Soong agree to continue dialogue and consultation over important issues related to national development, and issues of urgency pertaining to the public interests.