

Open letter to Secretary of State Colin Powell

Mr. Secretary, You Are Wrong!

台灣是一個主權獨立的國家

We the Taiwanese American community thank you for your ongoing work for peace in East Asia. Your efforts, especially those contributing to the initiation of a dialogue between the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Taiwan, are constructive and timely. We feel, however, that your recent remarks in Beijing are wrong on several points and require immediate rectification.

On October 25, you stated:

"Taiwan is not independent. It does not enjoy sovereignty as a nation."

FACT:

U.S. law, specifically the 1979 "Taiwan Relations Act," treats Taiwan like any other sovereign state. The 1982 "Six Assurances" states that the United States would not change its longstanding position on the matter of sovereignty over Taiwan. Furthermore, Taiwan is incontestably a de facto independent democracy. Taiwan's sovereignty resides with the 23 million people of the island nation.

On October 25, you stated:

"We want to see both sides not take unilateral action that would prejudice an eventual outcome, a reunification that all parties are seeking."

FACT:

Taiwan has never been ruled by the communist People's Republic of China. Therefore, the two countries cannot RE-unify. Today, the overwhelming majority of Taiwan's people do not seek any form of union with the PRC. U.S. policy does not prejudge the outcome of cross-Straits relations as long as they are resolved peacefully and with the consent of the people of Taiwan.

WE ASK THAT

The United States affirm its support for democracy, self-determination and respect for sovereignty for the people of Taiwan.

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For more information, please contact FAPA.
Tel: (202) 547-3686 Fax: (202) 543-7891 www.fapa.org