



“Bush supports military ties with China”

By CK Wong 2006.07.21

<http://www.ck-wong.ca/China/bush%20supports%20military%20ties%20with%20china%2020060721.pdf>

Introduction

The title of this commentary is quoted from a report from Xinhau and China Daily [1]. The wording and position is strange and contradicting the American’s position. What could be the hidden agenda?

Contradicting History?

American is the backer of the Taiwan political independence. By the agreement with the National Party in 1940’s the Seventh Fleet with protect Taiwan from China’s attack to maintain the Chinese sovereign of Taiwan. The People Republic of China (the mainland China government) always regarding Taiwan as part of China. Its political isolation is regarded as a internal matter of China as long as it is under the broad banner of China. When the current Taiwan government halt the NUC (the National Unification Committee), it is regarded as a separatism action to detach Taiwan from China. Many observers worry about the military of China may be erupted to resolve the situation. China did not. Rather, through US, envoy visited the Taiwan government to clarify their position.

Fundamentally, China has military ties with Russia and several other neighbors but not Japan. American has been seen as a non-friend from the military perspective by China and vise-versa. However, with the rise of the Taiwan NUC incidence and the continuous challenges from Japan on the costal line boundary (both backed by the American military promises), any eruption in military confrontation will jeopardize the stability of the Asian economy. Unless a full scale war is engaged, small conflict is just irritation and calls on unnecessary fears. So this dialogue is not a real step to have a join war game. It is exactly what the Bush government announced, more understanding. The consequence is more chances and more bridges to talk before any military confrontation.

Meaning or Messages

The military ties will more focus on the procedures in case of conflict rather than and cooperation in defense. China is the main driving force of this dialogue. It lets the world (mainly Japan and Taiwan) that their backer may not agree their actions. Their military confrontation should have a worry that American will not standing on the same side of their agenda.

Taiwan is a small island. China can take over it and the price may be dear to resolve the historic problem. However, this is not really an issue and necessary. Taiwan had been heavily invested in China and bootstrapped its miracle economic cycle. Most recent years, the table has turned. It is China’s turn to invest in Taiwan using the lucrative profit

made by those entrepreneurs. This military tie will send a strong message to the Formosa Movement members a strong message to stop any activity to interrupt the economy.

Japan's energy hunger has been driving it to develop energy hunt around the world. Close to home, the East and South China Seas have the high hydrocarbon potential are always on the radar of Japanese energy strategy. Let's not discuss the legitimacy of these claims but look at the fact that there are a few navy involved incidences. Japan is also on the agenda to flex its military muscle to become the police of Asia through gaining a seat in the UN's Security Council. Both agenda are based on the support of the American's navy in Pacific.

China has been attempting to resolve these issues through dialogues. The progress is much slower than the military threat built-up from both countries. A further tie between the military of China and US will reach the diplomatic solution.

North Korea is in the picture. One of the biggest worry from American is to repeat the Korean War in the 1950's. It does not have the money and the resource to start another front. The only hope is avoiding China to back up North Korea if goes to war.

In an international relationship, you cannot just take, you have to give too. The tie has give and take from both side and continues to hold the world in a single piece and peace.

Resources

[1] Bush supports military ties with China, 2006.07.21,
http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2006-07/21/content_645981.htm