



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Suppression and intimidation won't win Taiwan's heart

From Stanley Kao, Representative, Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States

As President Tsai Ing-wen solemnly reiterated, Chinese President Xi Jinping's proposal of a "one country, two systems" scenario for Taiwan is absolutely unacceptable ("Taiwan president: We will never accept reunification with China under terms set by Beijing," Jan. 2, 2019).

President Tsai, in response to Xi's speech delivered Jan. 2, made our position clear by pointing out that: first, China must face the reality of the existence of the Republic of China (Taiwan), and not deny the democratic system that the people of Taiwan have established together; second, must respect the commitment of the 23 million people of Taiwan to freedom and democracy, and not foster divisions and offer inducements to interfere with the choices made by the citizens of Taiwan; third, must handle cross-strait differences peacefully, on the basis of equality, instead of using suppression and intimidation to get Taiwanese to submit; fourth, it must be governments or government-authorized agencies that engage in negotiations.

Taiwan is a beacon of freedom and democratic values and a force for good in the international community. We call upon China to bravely move toward democracy and ensure the long-lasting peace and security of the region.
Washington, D.C.

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