

Appendix 125a – Foreign Minister Qian on Cross-strait Relations

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Full text of speech by Qian Qichen at 22 January forum on sixth anniversary of President Jiang Zemin's important speech "Continue to Strive for the Fulfillment of the Great Cause of the Motherland's Reunification": "Fulfill the Great Cause of the Motherland's Reunification at an Early Date, Accomplish the Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese Nation."

[FBIS Translated Text]

Beijing, 22 Jan (Xinhua) -- Comrades, friends,

Six years ago, President Jiang Zemin made an important speech entitled "Continue to Strive to Complete the Great Cause of Reunifying the Motherland." During these six years this important speech has played an important guiding role in promoting the development of cross-strait relations and impelling the process of the motherland's peaceful reunification. This programmatic document with its distinctive characteristics of the era is bound to continue to have a major and far-reaching impact on the development of cross-strait relations and the completion of the great cause of the motherland's reunification as we enter the new century.

We have already entered the new century. At this historic moment, all Chinese on both sides of the strait should base themselves on the fundamental interests of the Chinese nation, focus on the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and seriously ponder the great issue of speeding up cross-strait ties and fulfilling the great cause of the motherland's reunification at an early date.

The past century has been a century of vast changes in China. In the early 20th century, suffering aggression from the imperialist powers, poor and weak China sank into a semi-colonial and semi-feudal state, and fell into the serious crisis of being carved up still further. Hong Kong and Macao were occupied for a long time by foreign colonialists. After Japanese imperialism had seized Taiwan, it forcibly occupied northeast China and then proceeded to launch an all-out war of aggression in which it occupied more than half of China. With the ancient Chinese nation facing the moment of peril, the dauntless sons and daughters of China fought a life-and-death war of resistance. In 1945 the Chinese people won great victory in the war of resistance against Japan, and the compatriots on both sides of the strait rejoiced together at the return of Taiwan to the motherland's embrace. In 1949 the new China was born, and a China enjoying complete independence arose in the orient. What is regrettable was that the Chinese civil war did not end at that time, and due to this, plus foreign armed intervention, Taiwan was not reunified with the mother mainland, so the Chinese people had no choice but to continue to strive to accomplish cross-strait reunification.

Since the end of the 1970's, the guideline of "peaceful reunification, one country, two systems" has achieved new development in pushing cross-strait relations. The situation of long-lasting cross-strait separation has been broken through, and the comings and goings of

people and the exchanges in all fields have reached a historically unprecedented level. By the end of the 20th century, China had achieved tremendous successes in its reforms and opening up. Hong Kong and Macao have returned to the motherland, thus ending the history of the seizure and occupation of China's territory by the western powers and achieving major progress in the process of the motherland's reunification. The sons and daughters of China at home and abroad have greatly rejoiced at this and looked forward still more expectantly to an early settlement of the Taiwan problem and the fulfillment of the motherland's complete reunification. The century of striving by the Chinese nation in making consistent efforts to become stronger, working hard for national prosperity, resisting foreign bullying, and upholding unification has written a moving and tragic but glorious chapter, and laid the foundation for China's development; it shines through the ages, and all Chinese should be proud of it.

The Fifth Plenary Session of the 15th CPC Central Committee set the completion of the motherland's reunification as one of the three main tasks for the Chinese people in entering the 21st century. This is a strategic policy decision for accomplishing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation; it fully reflects the common will and lofty aspirations of all Chinese people and fully expresses the unshakeable resolve and powerful historic mission of the CPC. We firmly believe that in the course of the Chinese people's advance with firm strides toward the third- stage strategic goal in modernization, the Taiwan problem cannot drag on indefinitely, and the complete reunification of the motherland will be accomplished at an early date.

Peace and development remain the main currents of the era as we enter the new century. All the compatriots on both sides of the strait are Chinese, and the mainland and Taiwan are both Chinese territory and our common home. Reunification of the motherland is our duty, peaceful reunification is what we pursue, and common development in rejuvenating China is our goal. Striving for peaceful reunification and pursuing common development should become the orientation for the common efforts of the people on both sides of the strait. Upholding the one China principle is the basis for developing cross-strait relations and accomplishing peaceful reunification. The two sides of the strait have been separated for many years, and there are differences in ideology, social system and so on; we should take these factors into full consideration, and this is the reason why we advocate "one country, two systems," and these factors should not become obstacles to peaceful reunification. We have said that there is only one China in the world, the mainland and Taiwan both belong to one China, and China's sovereignty and territorial integrity brook no division. This is the common base point of both sides of the strait in upholding the one China principle, and it is very inclusive. The one China that we advocate is a China that includes the mainland and Taiwan. Of course there is a series of problems that need resolving in advancing from exchanges to reunification, but any problem can be discussed, so long as it is acknowledged that we belong to the same country. This attitude of ours shows our sincerity for peaceful reunification and our respect for the wishes of the Taiwan compatriots. This is beneficial not only for one side of the Taiwan strait but also for the compatriots on both sides.

Recalling past events, in 1992 the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait and the Strait Exchange Foundation reached consensus on each side orally expressing that "both sides of the strait uphold the one China principle." Although this was not a written consensus, both

sides agreed to orally express their attitude on upholding the one China principle. In fact, the two associations did some substantive things on this basis after 1992 by successfully holding the Wang-Koo talks, through which cross-strait relations made some progress. The facts have proven that for both sides of the strait to uphold the one China principle is the basis for the steady development of cross-strait relations. The leader of the Taiwan authorities has not yet specifically acknowledged the one China principle, nor has he acknowledged the 1992 consensus of the two associations, and this is the source of the current cross-strait tension. Since the leader of the Taiwan authorities has said that "the one China principle is not a problem," why does he not specifically acknowledge the one China principle? One China cannot be evaded nor can it be blurred. The sooner the leader of the Taiwan authorities acknowledges this, the better, and the more will this benefit the stability of Taiwan society and the development of cross-strait relations.

Although there have been major changes in the Taiwan situation since last March, which have brought new complex factors into cross-strait relations, and the struggle between separatism and antiseperatism has become still sharper and more complex, there can be no change in the main framework in which the compatriots on both sides of the strait and the international community recognize one China. This is a basic pattern. We will continue to carry out the basic guideline of "peaceful reunification, one country, two systems," and to comprehensively implement President Jiang Zemin's eight-point proposal on developing cross-strait ties in the current state and promoting the process of the motherland's peaceful reunification. We will continue to promote people's comings and goings and exchanges and cooperation in the economic, cultural, and other fields, inherit and carry forward together China's outstanding cultural traditions, develop exchanges and dialogue with Taiwan parties and factions and figures of all circles who agree on the one China principle, and promote cross-strait dialogue and negotiations on the basis of the one China principle, to create new conditions for peaceful cross-strait reunification.

As we enter the new century, faced with the trend of economic globalization and fierce competition, and faced with the progress of science and technology which is changing with each passing day, the compatriots on both sides of the strait should all the more link hands in cooperation to meet the challenges together and make both of them winners in mutual benefit in the economy and in science and technology. All obstacles that run counter to economic laws and do not help the common development of both sides of the strait should be eliminated. The mother mainland's modernization has entered a new stage, with a good start made on the major development of the western regions. We sincerely welcome the Taiwan compatriots to come to the mother mainland to develop undertakings and display their talent; we welcome still more Taiwan compatriots to come here and tour, visit relatives and friends, and engage in study exchanges. We will create still better conditions for compatriots on both sides of the strait to come and go, and will protect all the proper interests of Taiwan compatriots in accordance with law. We also demand that the Taiwan authorities remove their regulations banning mainland enterprises from investing in Taiwan, and abolish obstacles restricting the import of mainland products to Taiwan. We hope that compatriots from the mainland will also be able to tour Taiwan to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the motherland's treasure island.

We have been making efforts for over 20 years to achieve the cross-strait "three links." Today,

achieving comprehensive cross-strait direct "three links" has become the objective requirement of the constant expansion of compatriots' comings and goings and the universal and urgent desire of the Taiwan compatriots. We have already made the necessary preparations in all respects. Links benefit both sides and make both winners, and linking is better done sooner than later. In the course of achieving the cross-strait "three links," we agree with all ideas that accord with "one China, two-way direct, and mutually beneficial and favorable." At present, so long as we regard cross-strait "three links" as the internal affair of one country, we can use the method of consultations between nongovernmental bodies, between trades, and between companies to achieve the links as soon as possible.

We will continue to unite the Taiwan compatriots to make ceaseless efforts to achieve peaceful reunification and common development. The fate of the compatriots on both sides of the strait is the same. No force is capable of severing the flesh and blood ties between us or of damaging the warm affection between compatriots. We deeply sympathize with the sufferings of the Taiwan compatriots in having endured a long period of colonial rule and despotic oppression, fully understand and respect the strong aspirations of the Taiwan compatriots to be masters in their own house, and sincerely wish them happy life and development of all their undertakings. The Taiwan compatriots have done a lot of useful work over many years to develop cross-strait ties. We fully believe that the Taiwan compatriots will, together with us, make new contributions to putting a stop to separatist conspiracies and promoting peaceful reunification. Whether in the course of achieving reunification or after reunification has been achieved, we will fully respect the wishes of the Taiwan compatriots and will properly safeguard their interests. In advocating peaceful reunification, we are acting in line with the wishes of the Chinese people and preserving the supreme interests of national sovereignty and territorial integrity. We advocate "one country, two systems" in order to respect the strong desires of the Taiwan compatriots to be masters in their own house and to uphold their vital interests.

During the past year the compatriots of Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macao, and the overseas Chinese compatriots have plunged into the struggle to oppose "independence" and promote reunification; this has had a major impact and played a major role in cross-strait relations. We will, as before, work together with the Taiwan compatriots, with Taiwan parties, factions, and figures of all circles that agree on the one China principle, and with all overseas organizations opposing "independence" and promoting reunification, and unite with all forces that can be united to continue to struggle together to curb separatism and promote reunification. So long as those people who have in the past preached, engaged in, and pursued "Taiwan independence" abandon their separatist stance, we are willing to explore and promote the development of cross-strait relations together with them.

As we enter the new century, the achievement of China's complete reunification will benefit stability and development in the Asia-Pacific region and make a still greater contribution to world peace and development. The Taiwan problem is China's internal affair and should be settled by Chinese people themselves. We resolutely oppose all intervention by foreign forces in China's settlement of the Taiwan problem. We hope that major powers which bear a heavy responsibility for world peace will properly abide by international law and the basic norms of international relations, carry out the solemn commitments they have given the Chinese

Government on the Taiwan problem, and refrain from doing things that will cause tension in cross-strait relations. The Chinese people love peace, and will not permit any external forces to block or wreck the process of China's peaceful reunification.

China today is entering the hope-filled 21st century with the vigor and vitality of prosperous development. Achieving the motherland's reunification at an early date has a bearing on the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. We must have a sense of responsibility and, still more, a sense of urgency. By uniting in endeavor, the compatriots of both sides of the strait will certainly be able to accomplish the great cause of the motherland's reunification at an early date, and build our common home into a rich and strong, democratic, and civilized modern nation, thus writing a still more resplendent chapter in the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

In another two days we will celebrate the first Spring Festival of the 21st century. Here, I want to extend festal greetings to the Taiwan compatriots, and to all friends at home and abroad who are concerned for and support the great cause of the motherland's reunification. I wish you all a happy Spring Festival and family joy, and may everything turn out as you wish.

[Description of Source: Beijing Xinhua Domestic Service in Chinese -- China's official news service (New China News Agency)]