

Appendix 135 -- Taiwan President Chen on "One Country on Each Side" (2002)

Source: Shirley A. Kan, "China/Taiwan: Evolution of the 'One China' Policy -- Key Statements from Washington, Beijing and Taipei", Updated December 16, 2002. *Congressional Research Service Report for Congress* (Code: RL 30341), pp. 58-59.

Date: 2002 August 3

I would like to take a moment here to make a few calls for your consideration:

(1) During these past few days, I have said that we must seriously consider going down Taiwan's own road. ... What does "Taiwan's own road" mean? ... Taiwan's own road is Taiwan's road of democracy, Taiwan's road of freedom, Taiwan's road of human rights, and Taiwan's road of peace.

(2) Taiwan is our country, and our country cannot be bullied, diminished, marginalized, or downgraded as a local entity. Taiwan does not belong to someone else, nor is it someone else's local government or province. Taiwan also cannot become a second Hong Kong or Macau, because Taiwan is a sovereign independent country. Simply put, it must be clear that Taiwan and China are each one country on each side [yibian yiguo] of the strait.

(3) China has never renounced the use of force against Taiwan and continues to suppress Taiwan in the international community. ... China's so-called "one China principle" or "one country, two systems" would change Taiwan's status quo. We cannot accept this, because whether Taiwan's future or status quo should be changed cannot be decided for us by any one country, any one government, any one political party, or any one person. Only the 23 million great people of Taiwan have the right to decide Taiwan's future, fate, and status. If the need arises, how should this decision be made? It is our long-sought ideal and goal, and our common idea: a referendum.... I sincerely call upon and encourage everyone to seriously consider the importance and urgency of legislation for a referendum.