

Appendix 42 -- Assistant Secretary of State John Holdridge and Six Assurances (1982)

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), p. 30.

U.S. House, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Hearing on China-Taiwan: United States Policy, "Prepared Statement of Hon. John H. Holdridge, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs," August 18, 1982.

August 18, 1982

[On the August 17, 1982, communiqué], let me recapitulate and emphasize a few key features; then I'll take your questions. First, **the document must be read as a whole**, since the policies it sets forth are interrelated [original emphasis].

Second, as I have previously noted, the communiqué **contains a strong Chinese statement that its fundamental policy is to seek to resolve the Taiwan question by peaceful means** (Para 4) [original emphasis]....

Third, the **U.S. statements concerning future arms sales to Taiwan (Para 6) are based on China's statements** as to its fundamental peaceful policy for seeking a resolution to the Taiwan question and on the "new situation" created by those statements (Para 5) [original emphasis]....

Fourth, **we did not agree to set a date certain for ending arms sales to Taiwan** and the statements of future U.S. arms sales policy embodied in the Communiqué do not provide either a time frame for reductions of U.S. arms sales or for their termination. ... **We see no mediation role for the U.S. nor will we attempt to exert pressure on Taiwan to enter into negotiations with the PRC.** ... There has been **no change in our long-standing position on the issue of sovereignty over Taiwan.** The communiqué (Para 1) in its opening paragraph simply cites that portion of the joint communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and the P.R. C. in which the U.S. "acknowledged the Chinese position on this issue" (i.e., that there is but one China and Taiwan is apart of China). ... [original emphasis]

It has been reported in the press that **the Chinese at one point suggested that the Taiwan Relations Act be revised. We have no plans to seek any such revisions.** ... [Para 9] should not be read to imply that we have agreed to engage in prior consultations with Beijing on arms sales to Taiwan. [original emphasis]