Hu to Rice: Taiwan secessionists harmful

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Chinese President Hu Jintao told visiting US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice that he hoped the United States would "see clearly the nature and harms of 'Taiwan independence' secessionist forces and their activities."

Rice is on her first China trip since she took office in January as the guest of Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.

Chinese President Hu Jintao (right) meets with visiting US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Beijing March 20, 2005. [newsphoto]

Hu said he hoped the United States "would honor the commitments that US President George W. Bush reiterated repeatedly on adhering to the one-China policy, observing the three Sino-US joint communiques and opposing 'Taiwan independence.'"

He also said he hoped the United States would "understand and support all the efforts made by the Chinese government and people to safeguard China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and realize a peaceful reunification," and that it would not "send any wrong signal to 'Taiwan independence' secessionist forces."

Hu said properly handling "the Taiwan question" remains key to the sound and steady development of Sino-US relations and the Anti-Secession Law passed by China's National People's Congress on March 14 aims to "promote the development of relations across the
Taiwan Strait, push forward a peaceful reunification, oppose and curb 'Taiwan independence' and safeguard peace and stability across the Strait."

Premier Wen echoed Hu's remarks when meeting with Rice, saying the anti-secession law aims to curb Taiwan independent forces and the law would be conducive to the stability and development of the relations across the Taiwan Strait.

Wen said the secessionist activities of the Taiwan independent forces have posed the biggest threat to the peace and stability across the Strait and the law would also help to maintaining the peace and development in the Asian-Pacific region.

The premier expressed his hope that the US side would understand, respect and support China's legislation action.

Rice said it conforms with US interests to maintain tranquillity across the Taiwan Straits and solve the Taiwan question peacefully, and the United States will make efforts to that end.

She said the US government's position on pursuing the one-China policy and abiding by the three US-China joint communiques will not change.

**Hu calls for early resumption of six-party talks**

China is willing to work with all concerned parties, including the United States, to resume at an early date the six-party talks on the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula, President Hu said.

Hu said China, while insisting that Korean Peninsula should be nuclear weapons-free, is devoting itself to solving the nuclear issue through the six-party talks, and to safeguarding peace and stability there.

This stance of China is firm and unshakable, Hu stressed.

Rice spoke highly of China's important role in the progress of six-party talks and briefed Hu on the US viewpoints on this matter. She reiterated that the United States also regarded the six-party talks as the best way to solve the nuclear issue.

**China-US ties should be pushed to higher level**

Hu Jintao Sunday said the China-US constructive and cooperative ties should be pushed to a higher level.

Hu said the China-US relations have been improved and developed in the past four years and the two countries should further strengthen dialogue and cooperation, and enhance mutual trust.

Rice said the US government attaches great importance to growing and developing US-China constructive and cooperative ties, and people around the world are watching the "remarkable transformation" that is going on in China.

She said the United States is ready to join hands with China in exploring new cooperation fields and to further boost their relations.

Rice arrived in Beijing Sunday afternoon as guest of Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.

And China is the last leg of Rice's Asian tour, which has already taken her to India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Japan and the Republic of Korea.
Premier: Sino-US ties conducive to world peace and development

Premier Wen Jiabao said that the development of China-US relations serves the fundamental interests of the two peoples and are conducive to world peace and development.

Wen said China and the United States maintain a generally good relationship and have forged fruitful cooperation in various fields, noting that bilateral ties could be furthered in President Bush's second term given that the two sides will handle the relationship from a strategic and long-term perspective.

Premier Wen Jiabao shakes hands with visiting US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Beijing March 20, 2005. [newsphoto]

China and the United States should take each other's concerns into consideration and handle well disputes and conflicts in trade cooperation to achieve mutualbenefit and win-win situation, Premier Wen Jiabao said.

He said the economic and trade cooperation is an important part of China-US relations and the two sides should further improve current bilateral coordination mechanism based on principles of equality, mutual benefit and development.

Rice visited China in 2002 and 2004, as the US national security adviser. But this is her first China tour since she became the top US diplomat in January.

China is the last leg of Rice's Asian tour, which has already taken her to India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

Analysts believe the China-US ties, the question of Taiwan and the resumption of six-party talks on the Korean Peninsular nuclear issue are among the priorities of her visit.

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