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FAPA and Formosa Foundation Joint Statement on U.S. Commitment to Taiwan Security

WASHINGTON, D.C. and LOS ANGELES, CA. —The Formosan Association for Public Affairs (FAPA) and the Formosa Foundation jointly expressed indignation at Taipei Mayor and Kuomintang Party Chairman Ma Ying-jeou for making a statement that U.S. officials had told him during his visit to Washington DC that the United States would have no obligation to intervene in a military conflict between Taiwan and China if the Taiwanese government did anything to spark the conflict. Ma made the remarks in an interview with United Press International on March 28, 2006.

“I find it curious that a United States official confided in the mayor of Taipei and leader of the Taiwan opposition party that the United States considers Taiwan to be the problem, since it is China who has undermined the ‘status quo,’” said Terri Giles, executive director of the Formosa Foundation.

China has aimed almost 800 missiles at Taiwan and has repeatedly threatened the use of force to overwhelm the democratic and sovereign island. The Chinese Communist leadership has systematically isolated Taiwan from the rest of the international community, passed an anti-secession law and continued a rapid military buildup in recent years that is largely focused on intimidating Taiwan and seizing the island if intimidation fails. China’s provocative actions represent a major change in the status quo and a serious military threat to Taiwan.

The Formosan Association for Public Affairs strongly condemned Mr. Ma’s statement. “This reckless assertion must be music to the ears of the Chinese government,” said Dr. C.T. Lee, president of FAPA. “It could be used as justification for China to declare any democratic act by the Taiwanese government a “spark” for war.”

“We are gravely concerned that the Mayor’s statement will only embolden China to believe that the United States has severely curtailed any commitment to defend Taiwan,” said Giles.

The Formosa Foundation and FAPA each call upon the U.S. to confirm its adherence to the letter and the spirit of the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, which forms the solid foundation for the US commitment to help defend Taiwan in case of an attack by China. “We hope that the United States government will reinforce its commitment to support for Taiwan and its democracy and expressly condemn any statements that suggest otherwise,” said Lee.

“It is ridiculous to say that Taiwan is ‘rocking the boat’ by exercising its democracy.” Giles added.

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新聞稿

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要求美國尊受對臺灣的安全承諾 臺灣人公共事務會與美國福爾摩莎基金會發表共同聲明

華府及洛杉磯訊—臺灣人公共事務會(FAPA)及美國福爾摩莎基金會(以下簡稱基金會)今天共同發表聲明，針對臺北市長及國民黨主席馬英九最近的談話，表示憤慨。本月 28 日馬英九向合眾國際社(United Press International)記者表示，他在華府訪問期間，美國官員曾經告訴他，如果臺灣引起兩岸間的軍事衝突，美國將沒有義務干涉。

基金會執行長賈泰麗很不解，為何美國官員會在私下對臺北市長及反對黨主席說臺灣是問題的根源。「改變兩岸現狀的是中國，不是臺灣。」

中國領導人有系統地孤立臺灣於國際社會，而且不斷以武力威脅民主自由的臺灣。中國甚至通過反分裂法並年年增加軍備，目前已有約八百枚飛彈瞄準臺灣，以便如果恐嚇無效，將以武力攻佔臺灣。中國的種種動作都是為了改變兩岸現狀。

基金會及 FAPA 強烈指責馬市長不負責的言論。FAPA 會長李青泰醫師認為馬英九的說辭是要討好中國的，「馬市長的這番談話，讓中國有藉口宣稱臺灣實施的任何民主程序為引起兩岸衝突的導火線，進而以武力佔領臺灣。」

賈泰麗表示，「我們十分關切馬英九的這番聲明，因為他的談話內容會讓中國大膽假設美國防衛臺灣的決心已大幅度地減低，其後果將不堪設想」

基金會及 FAPA 共同要求美國遵守「臺灣關係法」，並重申其防衛臺灣的承諾。李醫師表示，「我們希望美國繼續支持臺灣的民主及防衛能力，並且很清楚地揭拆任何違背臺灣關係法的說辭。」

賈泰麗最後補充，「歸咎臺灣因實施民主政策而動搖兩岸現狀，是最荒謬的說法。」