

Transcript of Ambassador Qin Gang's Interview With the U.S. Mainstream Media 秦刚大使接受美主流媒体联合采访实录

Speech by Director General Liu Jinsong of the Asian Affairs Department of the Foreign Ministry at the Second China-Pakistan Think Tank Forum
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On August 16, Ambassador Qin Gang took a joint interview of the U.S. mainstream media in Washington DC, including Reuters, Associated Press, Bloomberg, National Public Radio, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New Yorker*, *The Hill*, POLITICO, Axios, Defense One, and he answered questions on China-U.S. relations, the Taiwan question, Hong Kong-related issues, and China's diplomacy. The transcript of the interview is as follows:

Josh Rogin (*The Washington Post*): Mr. Ambassador, thank you so much for taking time today. Recently, your counterpart in Paris, Chinese ambassador in France, said on two separate occasions that the Chinese government was planning for reeducation of the Taiwanese people after reunification. Can you explain to us what that means? What does that look like? Is the reeducation modeled after Hong Kong? Or is it modeled after Xinjiang? Is it modeled after Tibet? What kind of reeducation are you planning after reunification?

Ambassador Qin Gang: I don't know under what circumstances and in what context our Ambassador said this. But my personal understanding is that people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait are Chinese and the mainland and Taiwan belong to one and the same China. We need to reinforce the identity, our national identity. So I think this is what he really means, but I can't speak for him.

Josh Rogin: A quick follow up. You mentioned that in your op-ed in *The Washington Post* that published it that peaceful reunification is the preference, and that seems to me that you need to persuade the Taiwanese people to join back with China voluntarily. How's that going? How goes your efforts to win the hearts and minds of the Taiwanese people? You think it's working?

Ambassador Qin Gang: As a matter of fact, over the past years the mainland has done many things to promote the peaceful development of cross-Strait relations. We have shown our goodwill. Taiwan is a small place. Its

8月16日，秦刚大使在华盛顿接受路透社、美联社、彭博社、全国公共广播电台（NPR）、《华盛顿邮报》、《华尔街日报》、《纽约客》、《国会山报》、POLITICO、AXIOS、“防务一号”等美国主流媒体联合采访，就中美关系、台湾问题、涉港问题、中国外交等回答了记者的提问。问答实录如下：

罗金（《华盛顿邮报》）：大使，感谢您今天跟我们交流。您的同事中国驻法国大使最近在两个场合都谈到了，中国政府正计划在统一后对台湾人民进行“再教育”。您能解释一下这指的是什么吗？什么样的“再教育”，是香港那样的，还是新疆、西藏那样的？

秦大使：我不太清楚驻法大使是在什么情况和语境下作出有关表态的。但我的理解是海峡两岸都是中国人，两岸同属一个中国。我们要强化中华民族的身份认同。这应该是他想要表达的，当然我不能为他代言。

罗金：我追问一下，您不久前发表在《华盛顿邮报》上的署名文章写到还是要争取和平统一，但看起来你们仍需要说服台湾民众自愿回归中国。这方面工作进展如何？你们争取台湾民心民意的努力有进展吗？会有效果吗？

秦大使：事实上，过去几年大陆方面为两岸关系

market is limited, and there's not big room for Taiwan to develop its economy and livelihood. The future of Taiwan depends on the reunification with the mainland, and over the past decades, we've done so much. For example, there are one million Taiwan people living on the mainland. They are happy. They are doing their business, and they are opening their factories. They are studying on the mainland. Over the past years, the trade volume has doubled to more than \$320 billion. Taiwan enjoyed \$170 billion in surplus. The mainland is the largest trading partner and the largest source of trade surplus for Taiwan, and we have very frequent travel across the Taiwan Strait. I think that helps the understanding, mutual understanding.

Josh Rogin: So why do you think that the Taiwanese people overwhelmingly say they don't want to join the mainland?

Ambassador Qin Gang: We try to achieve peaceful reunification. It is our wish, because we believe that serves interests of the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. People on both sides are compatriots. The last thing we do is fight with our compatriots. We will make our utmost efforts and show the greatest sincerity to achieve peaceful reunification. The reason for us not to renounce non-peaceful means for reunification is not targeting at the Chinese people in Taiwan. It is to deter a small number of separatist forces and to deter foreign intervention. For the arrangements after the reunification, we have proposed the philosophy of "One Country, Two Systems". This is the best design for Taiwan. "One Country, Two Systems" was first put forward to resolve the Taiwan question. We believe it has fully considered Taiwan's realities, and it's conducive to Taiwan's long-term stability and prosperity. As for how to deliver it, we will take suggestions from people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait and fully accommodate the interests, sentiments of our brothers and sisters in Taiwan. "One Country, Two Systems" is still the most inclusive solution to resolve the Taiwan question. It's a peaceful, democratic and win-win solution that shows our goodwill. Different political systems are not an obstacle to reunification and they are not a pretext to separate Taiwan from China. So we believe that as the Chinese nation realizes reunification, there will be greater room and possibilities for the implementation of the Taiwan solution of "two systems".

Steve Clemons (The Hill): Ambassador, if I may, you have said very specifically that the U.S. said that you're looking at Pelosi trip as an excuse for China to set a new normal, basically saying that China was escalating the situation. One of the features that I saw in this was that a lot in the administration have serious reservations about Nancy Pelosi's trip. We actually saw they were divided within the administration. So who in the administration is actually telling you that China is using this pretext to change the status

和平发展作出了大量努力，展现了善意。台湾地域狭小、市场有限，自身经济发展和改善民生空间不大。台湾的前途取决于与大陆实现统一。过去几十年来，我们做了很多努力，现在有100万台湾同胞在大陆工作生活，他们过得很幸福，有开厂兴业的，也有求学的。过去几十年两岸贸易额大幅增长到3200亿美元，（去年）台湾地区对大陆享有的贸易顺差达1700亿美元，大陆是台湾地区最大出口市场和最大贸易顺差来源地，两岸之间还有频繁往来。这些都助于增进相互了解。

罗金: 那为什么台湾人压倒性地表示他们不想回归?

秦大使: 我们争取和平统一，我们有这样的愿望，因为和平统一最符合两岸人民的利益。两岸皆同胞，我们最不愿意做的就是骨肉相残。所以我们以最大诚意、尽最大努力争取和平统一前景。我们不承诺放弃非和平方式实现统一，这不是针对台湾同胞，而是为了遏制“台独”分裂势力，防止外部势力干涉。

实现统一以后，我们提出实行“一国两制”。这对台湾来说是最佳方案。“一国两制”最早是为了解决台湾问题提出的构想，充分考虑了台湾的现实，也有利于台湾长期稳定繁荣。

关于“一国两制”在台湾的具体实现形式，我们会充分吸收两岸意见建议，会充分照顾到台湾同胞的利益和感情。“一国两制”是解决台湾问题最具包容性的方案，是一个和平的方案、民主的方案、善意的方案、共赢的方案。两岸制度不同，不是统一的障碍，更不是分裂的借口。相信中国实现统一之后，“两制”的台湾方案会有更大空间和可能性。

克莱门斯 (《国会山报》): 大使，美方认为中方利用佩洛西访台建立一种新常态，美方认为是中方在升级局势。美政府很多人对佩此访持很大保留态度，政府内部对此看法分野。是哪个官员向您表

quo?

Ambassador Qin Gang: It's not a secret to us. Last Friday I think, a senior official of the National Security Council did a press briefing, blaming China for escalating the situation and using the visit as a pretext.

Steve Clemons: So it's Kurt Campbell.

Ambassador Qin Gang: It's on the record. It's recorded in the media.

Phelim Kine (POLITICO): Mr. Ambassador, a quick question, we've seen (inaudible) of the United States, in Missouri and Pennsylvania and other places, where the idea of China threat is a big part of the political rhetoric, political discourse. It seems pretty likely that the fallout in this country from the PLA's response to Pelosi's visit to Taiwan is gonna accentuate that. And I guess my question to you is, are you concerned that we're going to see this idea of China threat being part of midterm election rhetoric? I wonder, do you have a message to U.S. lawmakers and to U.S. voters about how they should be seeing China? Thank you.

Ambassador Qin Gang: I've been here as the ambassador for a year. And I have found that I'm in an environment of "threat-phobia". My country is being greatly misperceived and miscalculated as a challenge or even a threat to the United States, as you mentioned just now. And this relationship, which is so important and so consequential, is now being driven by fear, not by common interests and common responsibilities. If you listen to the words and see the behaviors of the politicians in this country, it's not difficult to draw this conclusion. But I want to say that China is not a threat, it's not a challenge. China's development intention is just to get a better life for its people. We have no intention to replace the United States and to destroy the United States. We just want our people to lead a happy life. We need a peaceful and cooperative external environment, including, particularly, our relations with the United States, so that we can focus on our domestic construction. But sadly, our intention is misunderstood. So I do hope that people can get rid of the "threat-phobia" and not blame China for everything, every problem of this country. China and the United States are different. China cannot change the United States. The United States cannot change China. We have differences. But differences cannot justify groundless blames and crazy, unreasonable words and deeds. And we should not let differences and disagreements stand at the center of the stage of our relations. We should not let them define our relations. If people handle this relationship out of fear of China, it will cause tensions, tensions after tensions. It will put our relations on a wrong track, and very dangerously lead our relations to the course or direction of conflict and confrontation.

Mary Louise Kelly (NPR): There's been a lot of con-

示中方以此为借口改变现状的?

秦大使: 这不是什么秘密。我记得上周五白宫国安会高官召开了记者吹风会, 指责中方升级局势并将此访作为借口。

克莱门斯: 那就是坎贝尔了。

秦大使: 这是对媒体公开发布的。

林海 (POLITICO): 大使, 在美国的密苏里州、宾夕法尼亚州等地, “中国威胁”在政治话语体系中占相当大的部分。此次解放军对佩洛西访台的反应会加剧这一现象。你对“中国威胁”占据(美国)中选话题有关切吗? 你对美国国会、选民有什么话要说吗, 他们应该如何看待中国? 谢谢。

秦大使: 我担任驻美大使已经一年了, 感觉自己身处(美国对中国的)“威胁恐惧症”之中。中国被误解误判成美国的挑战甚至威胁, 确实就像你刚才说的那样。中美关系这么重要的一组双边关系现在被(美对华的)恐惧驱动着, 而不是被两国的共同利益和共同责任驱动。你从这个国家政客的言行中不难得出这个结论。但我要说的是, 中国不是威胁, 不是挑战。中国的发展意图就是为了让人民过上更好的日子。我们无意取代美国、破坏美国。我们无非想让人民幸福生活罢了。我们需要一个和平、合作的外部环境特别是对美关系, 以更好地聚焦国内建设。遗憾的是, 我们的意图被误解了。我希望美方能摆脱“威胁恐惧症”, 不要将美国的所有问题归咎于中国。中美是不一样的, 谁都改变不了对方。但分歧不是进行无端指责的借口, 也不能为那些疯狂无理的言行开脱。我们不应让分歧占据中美关系舞台的中心, 不应由分歧定义中美关系。如果出于对中国的恐惧来处理中美关系, 就会造成两国关系紧张, 而且是源源不断的紧张, 会使中美关系走上错误轨道, 走向冲突对抗的危险方向。

凯利 (全国公共广播电台): 在华盛顿, 很多人讨论中国应从俄罗斯入侵乌克兰中吸取什么教训。