

## CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON SINO-AMERICAN TALKS

*On January 24, 1956 a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China made the following statement:*

The United States Department of State issued on January 21, 1956, a statement concerning the Sino-American ambassadorial talks, again distorting the course of events in the talks and the substance of the discussions. The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs deems it necessary to refute it on the basis of facts.

1. Regarding the first item of the agenda of the Sino-American talks, "the return of civilians of both sides to their countries": The Chinese side, at the very start of the talks, furnished the American side with a complete name-list and information concerning the Americans in China, and made a clear distinction between the ordinary American residents and the Americans who had committed offences against the law. Since the beginning of the talks up to now, all the 16 American residents who applied have been permitted to depart. Even among the 40 Americans who committed offences against the law, 27 have been released before the completion of their sentences by the Chinese Government which has adopted appropriate measures of leniency in regard to them after reviewing each case individually. The American side, however, has up to now refused to furnish the Chinese side with a complete name-list and information concerning the Chinese in the United States and has never given our side any accounting about the Chinese who are imprisoned in the United States. Since agreement was reached on the first item of the agenda, the United States Government has further

adopted threatening measures against the Chinese in the United States, stipulating that they must secure entrance permits for Taiwan. Thus the American side, in violation of agreement, is not only making it difficult for the Indian Government to carry out the tasks of a third country as specified in the agreement, but is also attempting to deprive the Chinese residents and students in the United States of their right to return to China.

2. Regarding the second item of the agenda, "other practical matters at issue between both sides": For more than four months, owing to the deliberate procrastination and obstruction by the American side, the two sides have not been able to enter into discussion of the substance of the two subjects put forward by the Chinese side — the question of embargo and the question of preparations for Sino-American negotiations at a higher level. Nor have they been able to reach agreement on the question of renunciation of the use of force raised by the American side after having discussed the question for more than three months.

It has been China's consistent stand that China and the United States should refrain from the use of force and settle disputes between the two countries by negotiation, particularly the question of the tension in the Taiwan area. As early as during the Asian-African Conference in 1955, this proposition was advanced by China at Bandung on its own initiative. However, since the United States has already used force against

China's territory of Taiwan, the stand for the non-use of force between China and the United States certainly cannot be utilized to induce China to accept United States armed occupation of Taiwan in order to legalize United States aggression. If the principle of non-use of force between China and the United States is to be realized, it is necessary to hold a Sino-American conference of the Foreign Ministers to settle the question of relaxing and eliminating the tension in the Taiwan area. In order that the Sino-American talks might make progress step by step, the Chinese side put forward on December 1, 1955, a new draft announcement providing that the Ambassadors of China and the United States, after proclaiming the principle of the renunciation of the use of force between China and the United States, should continue their talks to seek practical and feasible means for the realization of this principle. However, this in no way means that the Chinese side has dropped its proposal for the holding of a Sino-American conference of the Foreign Ministers. On the contrary, when the Chinese side put forward this new draft announcement, it clearly stated that it would raise again this proposal and seek for its realization subsequently in the talks.

China has also consistently stood for respecting the right of each country to individual or collective self-defence in conformity with the United Nations Charter. However, on the Chinese territory of Taiwan, there can be no question of self-defence so far as the United States is concerned. The so-called Mutual Security Treaty between the United States and Chiang Kai-shek is itself an infringement upon China's sovereignty and an intervention in China's internal affairs, and is therefore wholly illegal. No stipulation of the United Nations Charter can be interpreted as permitting an aggressor nation to have the right of self-defence on the territory of another nation subjected to its aggression. On the contrary, only China is entitled to exercise the right of self-defence on its own territory of Taiwan.

A settlement of the international question of the tension in the Taiwan area through negotiation between China and the United States must not be mixed up with China's exercise of its sovereign right in the Taiwan area to settle a domestic matter. Taiwan is a part of China's territory. No amount of sophistry can make out Taiwan a part of the United States and not a part of China. New China has succeeded to China's entire territory and sovereignty. No statement by the United States Department of State can alter this indisputable fact. The relations of New

China with the Chiang Kai-shek clique is China's domestic matter. Whenever there is any possibility, China will strive for the settlement of this matter by peaceful means, but the United States has no right whatsoever to interfere.

3. The two items on the agenda of the Sino-American talks are inter-related. The American side has violated the agreement on the first item and delayed progress on the second, and furthermore has issued a statement to distort once again the developments in the talks and the substance of the discussions. This can only be interpreted as an attempt by the American side to becloud the actual facts and hoodwink the people of the world in order to continue to drag out the Sino-American talks. The American side expressed unwillingness in the talks to provide specifically for the holding of a Sino-American conference of the Foreign Ministers; on the contrary, it demanded that China accept that the United States should have the right of self-defence in the Taiwan area. The United States Department of State persisted in this unreasonable position in its statement of January 21; and following the statement, an official of the United States Department of State further declared that the United States position on Taiwan was inflexible and "non-negotiable." This only shows that the American side has no sincerity to settle through negotiation the major dispute between China and the United States, that the American avowal that each side should pursue its objectives and policies by peaceful means is nothing but a hoax, and that the real intention of the American side is still to maintain and aggravate the tension in the Taiwan area and pursue its so-called "brink of war" policy of intimidation.

4. Summarizing the above, the stand and attitude of the Chinese side are as follows:

(1) The Chinese side has consistently complied with the agreement on the first item of the agenda reached between both sides at the talks. The Chinese side firmly demands that the American side submit a complete name-list and information concerning the Chinese in the United States, revoke such measures as the requirement of "entrance permits for Taiwan" designed to threaten the Chinese residents and students in the United States, and ensure that the Chinese in the United States can exercise freely their right to return to China. The situation in which one side faithfully executes the agreement while the other side unscrupulously violates it, is not permitted to continue for long.

(2) The tension in the Taiwan area is a result of United States armed occupation of Taiwan and interference in China's internal affairs. This international issue between China and the United States must not be mixed up with China's domestic matter between the Chinese Government and the Chiang Kai-shek clique.

(3) The Sino-American ambassadorial talks have proved to be incapable of settling such a major substantive question as the relaxation and elimination of the tension in the Taiwan area. The Chinese side holds that a Sino-American conference of the Foreign Ministers must be held, as this is the practical and feasible means for settling this question.

(4) Since the United States has already used force and threat of force against China in the Taiwan area, a statement on the renunciation of the use of force by China and the United States must lead to the elimination of the force and threat of force employed by the United States in the Taiwan area, and cannot possibly be utilized

to induce China to accept the status quo of United States occupation of Taiwan.

(5) China consistently upholds the right of individual or collective self-defence as provided in the United Nations Charter. However, this cannot be absurdly interpreted as meaning that the United States has this right of self-defence on the Chinese territory of Taiwan so as to infringe upon China's sovereignty and interfere in China's internal affairs.

(6) Consequently, the attempt of the United States in the Sino-American talks to demand that China one-sidedly implement the agreement on the return of civilians and accept United States occupation of Taiwan and interference in China's internal affairs, will never succeed. Should the United States persist in such an unreasonable demand and drag out the Sino-American ambassadorial talks without any settlement, the United States must bear the responsibility for all the consequences.

*(Hsinhua News Agency)*

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