

Diplomats meet with Secretary of State Pompeo in Beijing, advocate talks to manage differences

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Senior Chinese diplomats urged the United States on Oct 8 to halt wrongdoing and stop conduct that damages China's interests. They said China will take necessary measures and firmly safeguard its sovereignty, security and development interests.

China-US relations are at a critical stage and face great challenges, said Yang Jiechi, director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China Central Committee. Yang spoke in a meeting with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in Beijing.

Partnership is the only right choice for the two major countries, Yang said. China hopes the US will make the right choice and work along with China to manage differences based on mutual respect and develop pragmatic cooperation based on mutual benefit, he added.

In a separate meeting, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi blamed US moves for escalating trade tensions and condemned Washington's recent actions regarding Taiwan and other matters. He said a trade war is no solution.

China is still ready to solve disputes through negotiations, but they must be based on equality, integrity and seriousness, he said.

Wang urged the US to abide by the one-China principle and the three China-US joint communiques. He also urged the US to stop official exchanges and military links with Taiwan as well as arms sales to the island.

While demanding the US stop



State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi greets US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing on Oct 8. Wang said any new negotiations must be based on equality, integrity and seriousness. FENG YONGBIN / CHINA DAILY

US urged to halt damage

interfering with countries that have established or hope to establish diplomatic ties with China, Wang said Washington should take concrete actions to restrain Taiwan independence forces and uphold the China-US relationship and peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits.

Pompeo's visit came as relations have deteriorated amid tit-for-tat trade frictions. Before Beijing, he also visited Tokyo, Pyongyang and Seoul.

Pompeo responded by saying the

US means neither to oppose China's development nor contain China in a comprehensive manner despite marked disparities on some issues. He reaffirmed that the US upholds the one-China principle, saying the two sides should strengthen communication, build mutual trust and intensify rules-based cooperation.

Pompeo exchanged views with the Chinese diplomats about his trip to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), expressed appreciation for China's consistent posi-

tion and efforts in denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula and expressed hope to continue to strengthen cooperation with China on the issue.

Wang said China supports direct dialogue between the US and the DPRK and will play its unique and crucial role in peninsula denuclearization on the basis of mutual respect and taking into account respective concerns.

Zhou Fangyin, a researcher of China's foreign policies at the Guang-

dong Institute for International Strategies, said that with hardliners in the US administration toward China on the rise and trade issues having reached an impasse, high-level exchanges and communication are significant in helping avoid unexpected situations.

"The US considers China a strategic competitor, which affects US policy toward China," Zhou said, adding that China will continue to seek strategic stability in China-US relations.

China shapes its own destiny

Foreign Ministry rejects US attempt to claim credit, says each country responsible for its own development

By XU WEI
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China has refuted claims by United States leaders that "the US really rebuilt China", saying that the development of any country ultimately depends on itself.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said at a news briefing on Oct 10 that China mainly owes its tremendous achievement in development to the correct leadership of the Communist Party of China and the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the country's unwavering efforts

in pushing forward reform and opening-up, as well as the diligence and wisdom of the Chinese people.

The claim by US leaders that attributes China's achievement to chronic trade surpluses in Beijing's favor is logically untenable, he said.

Rather than pursuing development within a vacuum, China has always kept its door wide open to conduct win-win cooperation with different countries, he added.

"As a country with a population of close to 1.4 billion, it is impossible for China to rely on the charity of others for its development. I am afraid that

there is simply no country with such capabilities to rebuild China," he said.

Lu said the US trade deficit with China is a result of the comparative advantages of China and division of labor factors.

China's foreign trade has always been in line with market principles and conducted fairly. The US buys more from China than it sells, and it also has self-imposed restrictions on exports of some products, which has naturally resulted in deficits, he said.

"It is unfair and improper that the US denounces China on these grounds," Lu said.

Meanwhile, bilateral trade between China and the US is by no means one-way traffic that transports wealth to China, he said, adding that the US has long gained wide and tremendous economic benefits from business and trade cooperation with China.

"Nobody is willing to make deals destined to lose, not to mention for 20 years," he said.

China urges the US to adopt the right mentality, respect facts, stop groundless accusations against China, and do more to benefit businesses and consumers, Lu said.

Estimates by the US-China Business Council last year showed trade with China saved typical US families up to \$850 in 2015.

A report released by Deutsche Bank in June said that even though China enjoyed a \$376 billion trade surplus with the US in 2017, Chinese consumers own more iPhones and buy more General Motors cars than US consumers do.

"These cars and phones are sold to China not through US exports, but through Chinese subsidiaries of US multinational enterprises," the report said.