



President Tsai Ing-Wen welcomes G7 mention of Taiwan Strait

Taiwan's president and Presidential Office welcomed the latest G7 communique, which, for the first time in the group's history, called for the peaceful resolution of cross-Taiwan Strait issues.

The communique, issued after the three-day G7 summit, said "we underscore the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, and encourage the peaceful resolution of cross-strait issues."

This was another example in which the world's major democracies showed concern for the situation in the Taiwan Strait, following similar statements issued after the U.S.-Japan Summit, U.S.-Korea Summit, EU-Japan Summit and Japan-Australia 2+2 Consultations earlier this year, he said.



The Taiwan Strait has long been a potential flashpoint in the region, with tensions heightened more recently over China's military maneuvers in the region that Taiwan has seen as provocative and efforts by Taiwan to deepen ties with the U.S. and assert its sovereignty.

US Pentagon warns China flight of 28 military planes around Taiwan raises 'risk of miscalculation'

On Tuesday morning (June 15), 28 People's Liberation Army Airforce (PLAAF) fighter jets, bombers, and surveillance aircraft penetrated Taiwan's ADIZ. It was the largest number of Chinese military aircraft

ever reported in the zone in a single day. Several of the warplanes flew through a large swathe of the southern part of the zone, over the Bashi Channel. Some observers have speculated that the flights could be a response to the recent G7 Summit, which called for peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

Others believe that it is a response to the presence of a U.S. aircraft carrier group led by the USS Ronald Reagan that is patrolling the South China Sea. In response, Pentagon spokesman John Supple was cited by the Japan Times as saying Wednesday (June 16) that Beijing's "increasing military activities conducted in the vicinity of Taiwan are destabilizing and increase the risk of miscalculation."

5 Southeast Asian countries to consider procuring Taiwan's COVID vaccines: Report

While the Philippines is mulling recognizing Taiwan's emergency use authorization (EUA) standards to clear the way for Taiwan-developed vaccines, sources familiar with the matter told that the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand are contacting Taiwanese vaccine makers Medigen Vaccine Biologics Corp. (MVC) and United Biomedical about possible collaborations.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between MVC and Vietnam's National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE) has been inked to secure a partnership, according to the report. MVC's COVID-19 vaccine can be kept in temperatures of between 2 and 8 degrees Celsius, without requiring ultra-cold storage. Paraguay's FCM (Facultad de Ciencias Medicas de la UNA) and MVC signed an MOU to jointly conduct phase three clinical trials and related research for the MVC vaccine. The details of the collaboration will be ironed out in a separate agreement.

MOFA Spokesperson Joanne Ou on Tuesday (May 15) said clinical trials have begun in Paraguay.

"We would love to share our home-grown vaccines with our allies to combat the pandemic after the emergency use of MVC's COVID-19 vaccine is greenlit against the backdrop of an adequate as well as stable supply," she added.

MOFA Minister Joseph Wu interviewed recently by The Australian's Steve Jackson, touching on cross-strait relations and the Taiwan model of working with our allies in the South Pacific

Minister Wu pointed to the stark contrast between Taiwan, which shares the values of freedom and democracy with like-minded countries, and China's expansion of its authoritarian power wherever it ventures, including measures aimed at Taiwan, such as military threats, disinformation campaigns, economic sanctions and interference in Taiwan's participation in the international community.

Minister Wu stated the PRC has never ruled Taiwan, which has a democratically elected government and independent national defense, foreign relations, and monetary systems, and that Taiwan is prepared to defend its freedom and democracy against China, so will continue to strengthen its military defense capability and cooperation with like-minded countries.

Minister Wu called the world's attention to China's attempts to push beyond the first island chain and manipulative actions in the Solomon Islands and Kiribati as part of its geopolitical strategy, trapping countries with Debt Diplomacy.