

The Importance of Diplomacy-Buying

Fu, Hui-wen

刪除:

On October 29th, [the Taipei Times](#) featured an article with the headline, “Farewell, Senegal. We hardly know you,” in protest of Senegal’s recent betrayal of ‘friendship’ with Taiwan. Five days earlier, the island was shocked when the Senegalese foreign ministry announced the switch of its diplomatic recognition from Taiwan (ROC) to China (PRC). According to Taiwanese officials, following the severing of official ties, the Senegalese President stated in a letter sent to the Taiwanese President that “he hoped to maintain only economic, trade and cultural relations with the ROC.” Furthermore, he wrote that there are only interests instead of friendships between countries. The loss of Senegal has worried the current Taiwanese government, because it adds to Taiwan’s increasing diplomatic isolation. The latest event has prompted policy analysts, as well as the Taiwanese authorities, to reconsider its current diplomatic tactic, which scholars refer to as “dollar diplomacy.” Nonetheless, upon examining Taiwan’s current endangered international status, this project concludes that to lure allies with economic incentives remains an irreplaceable strategy for Taiwan’s survival.

The ROC has witnessed a dramatic decrease in its international status and identity since losing the recognition of the United States in 1979. Moreover, China has utilized its financial, military and diplomatic power, and even its UN Security Council position, to persuade Taiwan’s allies in an attempt to isolate its rival. Consequently, it is not surprising that Taiwan has the most troublesome diplomatic status issues.

Attributing the recent defeat to Beijing’s offering of a greater sum than the amount Taiwan had previously supplied, the Taiwanese foreign ministry has denounced Beijing’s tactic of pursuing Taiwan’s allies with economic incentives. Ironically, Taiwan, now only recognized by its 25 remaining allies, mostly small and poor developing countries in Africa and Central America, is also well known for diplomacy-buying. Stunned by Senegal’s departure, many Taiwanese officials are concerned that Senegal’s abrupt abandonment of Taiwan could encourage other allies in the region to restore ties with Beijing. One Taiwanese politician suspected that “as China’s economy continues to boom, it will inevitably spend more money to lure our allies over to its side.” (*Taipei Times*) Meanwhile, some political analysts also fear that China’s position on

the UN Security Council enables China to dissuade nations from holding official relations with Taipei.

The resulting political crisis also intensified Taiwan's economic and cultural isolation. Since its admission to the UN, the Beijing government has attempted to downgrade the ROC to the status of a non-entity. China's growing dominance in the UN also ensured the exclusion of Taiwan in any U.N. statistical reports. Under these circumstances, Taiwan has been forced to win recognition by money. Following the U.S. desertion of Taiwan, analysts assumed Taiwan would be recognized only by the apartheid regime of South Africa and a few other nations. Surprisingly, for a short period of time the ROC, through its economic might, triumphed in regaining recognition from countries such as the Bahamas, Liberia, and Grenada. Nonetheless, in recent years Beijing has been able to continuously trim down the list of Taiwan's allies by imitating the ROC's tactic of buying "friendships" with its evolving economic and political advantages.

删除: s

The results generated from this research verify the trend that outdoing Beijing diplomatically has become an increasingly difficult task for the ROC government, as China now possesses both political and economic might. Beijing's growing political and economic roles in the international arena guarantee Taiwan will be continuously living in isolation, and incidents of "friendship-betrayal" can occur at any moment. Unfortunately, at present, achieving diplomatic recognition is vital to the survival of the ROC. It is the best solution for the Taipei government to stop China from marginalizing Taiwan on the international stage. Facing Beijing's threat, Taiwan has to prevent the number of its allies from falling dramatically; otherwise the situation will further endanger Taiwan's status in both domestic and international dimensions. If the number drops below 20, the island is likely to suffer from internal and external instability. Additionally, succeeding in forming diplomatic relations is another way Taiwan can demonstrate its sovereignty, because diplomatic recognition is one of the crucial elements that dictates the qualification for being a sovereign state. Despite the substantive efficacy of its

删除: instabilities

recognition-buying tactics, the ROC government must take those humiliating betrayals as warning signs of the need to readjust its foreign policy. It is no secret that Taiwan's generosity has on occasion been abused by its allies. Therefore, the Taiwanese foreign ministry ought to re-identify its targeted states. Furthermore, as a democratic country, the ROC should create a more open aid-policy process and increase public participation, so that the Taiwanese people can assure that their money does not go into the pocket of foreign politicians. Some observers

删除: use

suggest that Taiwan should also strengthen non-official relations and try to win more friends by cooperating on civil affairs such as health and human rights.

References

Lo, William. "Diplomatic corps needs reshuffle to retain allies."

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/editorials/archives/2005/11/02/203278431>

"Editorial: pointless revenge scores an 'F'."

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/editorials/archives/2005/10/29/2003277880>

(While well-written, this does not read like a persuasion paper.)

格式字體顏色都是
示

格式字體顏色