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Strictly Personal and Confidential – Via FedEx

President Lai Ching-te
The Presidential Office Building
No. 122號, Section 1, Chongqing South Road
Zhongzheng District, Taipei City, Taiwan 1000

Dear Mr. President:

Re: Realpolitik: Has Taiwan Been Prudent Enough To Buy/Develop Sufficient Nuclear Weapons To Deter China?

This is a suggestion from a 232-member monthly public-policy study group that I have facilitated for the past 19 years. Its participants from around the U.S. and the world include many attorneys and science professors.

Beginning with our 4/3/2011 meeting on the Fukushima Daiichi disaster of 3/11/2011, our meetings on nuclear issues have been led by a PhD in Nuclear Engineering from the U.S. National Nuclear-Research Laboratory at Oak Ridge - U/Tenn. And I have been a disciple of Henry Kissinger since taking his seminar on Nuclear Weapons and Foreign Policy when he was still a Harvard Poli Sci Prof and I was a mere law student who spent more time on his seminar than my other courses combined.

In the lead up to your 1/13/2024 election, The London Economist reported that of the three candidates, you were the most appealing to hardline independence supporters, that you once described yourself as a “pragmatic worker for Taiwan independence” and that you have promised to stick to Tsai Ing-wen’s careful dictum: that because Taiwan is already independent, it needs no further declarations.

However, we’re sure that you realize that de facto independence at the moment does not guarantee the future. After all (1) Xi Jinping has widely been reported to have ordered his military to be ready for an invasion of Taiwan in 2027, and (2) C.C. Wei’s announcing at The White House on 3/2/2025 TSMC’s building 5 new semi-conductor plants in the U.S. effectively means TSMC and its principal owners & key employees have deployed their “Golden Parachutes” to land them in the U.S. while the PRC takes over Taiwan.

Even before these two ominous developments, we had been intrigued by the referenced question. After all –

(1) PBS Nova Science Series’ 3/9/1975 documentary proved that “any reasonably-bright student” can design a nuclear weapon from publicly-available information, following which a British Royal Commission reported in September 1976 in the wake of the Nova Program - “The equipment required [to actually construct the nuclear weapon] would not be significantly more elaborate than that already used by criminal groups in the illicit manufacture of heroin.” [The British Royal Commission was concerned at that time that nuclear weapons could be so easily designed and constructed by the Irish Republican Army.]

(2) There must be beaucoup nuclear weapons available on the “black market” starting with the 132 suitcase-size nukes that went missing when the USSR broke up, 84 of which have never been recovered. After all, Osama bin Laden issued 5 fatwās commanding his followers to nuke 10 million Americans -- about which the Founding Dean of Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, Graham Allison, wrote a famous book entitled “Nuclear Terrorism: The Ultimate Preventable Catastrophe” (Times Books 8/9/2004).

To a U.S. Navy Unrestricted Line Officer 1967-1970 (Ensign > Lieutenant (j.g.) > Lieutenant) with a Top Secret Clearance with Cryptographic Access (de rigueur for standing OOD watches for a command with nuclear weapons because it wouldn’t be practical to wake your CO in the few seconds available to launch if an order were received), it is obvious from the fact that 10 million Americans have not already been nuked (Osama’s fatwā can NOT be revoked since he is dead), that it must be possible to detect and destroy nuclear weapons.

So two questions which we believe you should ponder if you haven't already –

(1) If Taiwan has not already invented the means to foil the devices that detect and destroy nuclear weapons, don't C.C. Wei and TSMC as a "going away present" owe it to their fellow Taiwanese whom they are deserting to help invent such a device???

(2) Even if they cannot do so and indeed, Taiwan had not already done so, wouldn't it be possible to make China believe that Taiwan has the ability to smuggle nuclear weapons undetected into China and plant them near large cities and strategic targets???

Thank you for your consideration. We wish you and Taiwan continuing Good Fortune!!!

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Karls
JD, Harvard Law School, 1967
Who's Who in American Law, 1988-2003
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Who's Who in The World, 1994-2003