

Taiwan Policy Centre Press Release: Taiwan Policy Centre call for western strategic clarity in light of Blinken's Taiwan's comments

For immediate release

Following comments from US Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken that the People's Republic of China's Communist Party Chair Xi Jinping "is determined to pursue unification [with Taiwan] on a much faster timeline", Taiwan Policy Centre Chief Executive, David Spencer, commented:

"This assessment, added to the PRC's disproportionate and hostile response to the visit of US Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan in August, is further evidence of their determination to undermine the status quo and threaten the future of Taiwan.

"As Blinken rightly stresses, the global implications of an illegal annexation of Taiwan would be far greater than those seen after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"It is clear that the western policy of strategic ambiquity over the future of Taiwan is no longer effective. It is time for change.

"Western Governments, including the UK and the US, must now be clear that they will defend Taiwan from any invasion or blockade and that the economic consequences the PRC will face if they attack Taiwan would be dire.

"We all have a duty to protect the rights and freedoms of the 23 million people of Taiwan and to defend their right to self-determination."

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Media Inquiries

For any media enquiries, please contact:

UK:	Taiwan:
David Spencer Chief Executive	Ben Goren Director of Communications
Email – ds@taiwanpolicycentre.com	Email – bg@taiwanpolicycentre.com



Notes to Editors

Blinken Statement

The comments by US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken were made in a discussion with formr Seceretary of State Condoleezza Rice at Stanford University on Monday.

You can find more details here.

About the Taiwan Policy Centre

The <u>Taiwan Policy Centre</u> is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to boosting political, cultural, and trading relations between the UK and Taiwan.

We aim to increase the knowledge and understanding that policy-makers, the media, and the British public have about Taiwan through a combination of research, educational events, and outreach.

We further aim to highlight the threats and injustices that Taiwan faces at the hands of the Chinese Communist Party and lobby the UK Government to take a stronger and more proactive stand in support of Taiwan on the global stage.

Too often, media coverage and understanding of Taiwan is shaped by the language and claims of the Chinese Communist Party, a governing authority which does not, and never has, governed Taiwan.

The Taiwan Policy Centre aims to correct these misconceptions and ensure that the UK's policies towards Taiwan and media coverage of Taiwanese affairs are rooted in research and law.

