

KMT chief's 'journey of peace' to have lasting impact

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Abstract (Document Summary)

This trip is the result of joint endeavours by the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the KMT. Since last year's May 17 Statement by the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, the mainland's Taiwan policy has shifted to a stage of readjustment. By March of 2005, when Party General Secretary Hu Jintao issued his four-point directive and the National People's Congress passed the Anti- Secession Law, the new policy has come into shape. It is a policy characterized by clarity, pragmatism and resoluteness, which means that peaceful reunification will be steadfastly pursued and splittist activities for "Taiwan independence" firmly opposed.

The fact that [Lien Chan] accepted the invitation has proved that Lien and the KMT top brass have given profound thought to Taiwan's future, its prosperity and KMT's own prospects, among other issues. They have realized that "Taiwan independence" will destroy Taiwan's future and sink the KMT with it.

Full Text (484 words)

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Lien Chan's trip to the mainland as the head of his Kuomintang (KMT) delegation has received wide attention and general acclaim.

It is a testament to the success of the trip, which is destined to have positive impacts on future relations across the Taiwan Straits.

This trip is the result of joint endeavours by the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the KMT. Since last year's May 17 Statement by the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, the mainland's Taiwan policy has shifted to a stage of readjustment. By March of 2005, when Party General Secretary Hu Jintao issued his four-point directive and the National People's Congress passed the Anti- Secession Law, the new policy has come into shape. It is a policy characterized by clarity, pragmatism and resoluteness, which means that peaceful reunification will be steadfastly pursued and splittist activities for "Taiwan independence" firmly opposed.

Hu's four-point statement and the Anti-Secession Law both stipulate clearly that cross-Straits relations will be promoted and concrete measures proposed.

With a broad-minded outlook, CPC leaders made an invitation to non-governing KMT leader Lien Chan at a time when the situation across the Straits was in a stalemate. It is a manifestation of the CPC's ability to keep up with the times and keep in mind the basic interests of the people on both

sides of the Straits with the goal of achieving a great reconciliation of the Chinese nation.

The fact that Lien accepted the invitation has proved that Lien and the KMT top brass have given profound thought to Taiwan's future, its prosperity and KMT's own prospects, among other issues. They have realized that "Taiwan independence" will destroy Taiwan's future and sink the KMT with it.

On the other hand, the policy of maintaining ties with the mainland in the spirit of the "1992 consensus" will help maintain peace, stability and prosperity in the region. With this conviction, KMT has made the vital decision to overcome all kinds of barriers and taken the historic step to reconcile with the CPC. The wisdom and courage manifested in the move is worth applauding.

With the joint efforts by the CPC and KMT, this history-making trip has been greatly successful.

As stated in the communique issued by Hu and Lien after their meeting, the two parties will maintain the "1992 consensus," oppose "Taiwan independence," seek peace and stability in the region and promote cross-Straits relations and healthy exchanges.

The communique also shows that a concrete framework for co-operation between the two parties is taking shape, with overlapping concerns as its mainstay. To take it a step further, a platform for cross-Straits exchanges is emerging, upon which politicians of the two sides can conduct various conversations and negotiations in an effort to deal with issues that concern both sides. Lien's trip is a case in point.

It can be expected that Lien Chan's trip will have long-term significance.