



Chinese Community Council of Australia Inc 澳華社區議會

A submission for Australian foreign policy white paper

The 21st century has been prophetically called the Asian century and Australia must be part of it both as a contributory nation as well as sharing wealth and prosperity that could be generated in a continuous bi-lateral trade with our Asian neighbours, and particular, with our largest trading partner, China.

In order to be seen as team player in the region, Australia must pursue an independent foreign policy in Asian affairs and in particular, Australia-China relations.

We acknowledge US as our close ally since the start of WWII, and we have been subservient to their global containment in containing USSR, China and other communist countries. The US MacCarthyism of the 1950s which speared headed the cold war and the Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan wars. We have proven our worth to the American. Such concepts as the “Yellow Peril” and “Domino Effect” were popular then.

In the 21st century, circumstances has changed.

1. With the collapse of the “evil” empire USSR, the Cold War is almost dead unless the US choose to revive it with new sparing partners, the Russian Federation and China.

2. The rise of China as an economic power and its innovative Asian Infrastructure Development Bank (AIIB)

<http://america.cgtn.com/?s=aiib>

and the One Belt Road initiative,

<http://english.cctv.com/2016/10/12/VIDE8KvcPkGBlcGEfRSrqjV0161012.shtml>

is a measure of China’s ability to win and influence friends with their economic soft power.

3. The rise in assertion of China’s “One China Policy” and her claims in the South China Sea.

4. The continuing policy of US containment of China and the Trump-Cai telephone call is a deliberate provocation and could lead to war in the region.

Adverse consequence of following American foreign policy in Asia:

South China Sea:

The claims made by China did not suffer any international rebuke when the case went before UNCLOS. In fact, the new China-Philippine relations make a mockery of the UNCLOS ruling and tipped the pivot in the US-China relations towards China allowing her to get more support from countries who made claims in the region.

The membership of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) can be considered a Chinese win in public relations with 57 nations, including Australia and New Zealand, being members. The decision for Australia to join has been a wise one and represents an independent Australian foreign policy and a departure from simply following the Americans. The US and Japan did not apply to join. AIIB is considered a threat by the US which controls the IMF and ADB.

Countries such as Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam with claims of sovereignty over the whole or part of several island chains and nearby waters in the region are accepting a one-one peaceful negotiations with China. These countries are members of the AIIB.

The building of infrastructures by China on the islands is seen by the US as a threat to the freedom of navigation in the South China seas. US policy to contain China is undeniable as it sees the rise of China's economics and military, as a challenge in their claim of No. 1 superpower. All threats are figments of imagination of the Americans. Does Australia want to champion US desire to contain China? If we go on this direction, we will be left behind economically; and definitely, not in our national interest.

The Trump-Cai telephone call has already stirred up bad relations between China and the US. The One China policy is spiritually and psychologically embedded in the Chinese mind. It is not only in the CCP but also the ordinary people. Taiwan's declaration of independence will lead to war and Australia will face the dilemma whether to send troops and fight alongside with US forces to defend Taiwan. If the US is involved, we would then welcome 2017 as the Year of the Nukes, with MAD rest assured! It is none of our business, and US flexing its military might is a path destined for mutual obliteration.

Post Trump comments:

- (a) The Daily Telegraph report (2Feb2017) about the Trump-Turnbull telephone (below) does not give Australia much comfort as a trusted and reliable ally of the US.

“Instead, President Trump **blasted Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull** over a refugee agreement and boasted about the magnitude of his electoral college win, according to senior U.S. officials briefed on the Saturday exchange. Then, 25 minutes into what was expected to be an hour-long call, **Trump abruptly ended it**”.

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/blogs/tim-blair/turnbull-trump-in-telephone-tiff/news-story/8b06ac629d93db098d7a169e30efe17d>

- (b) The telegraph headline “Donald Trump backs down over ‘One China Policy’ in call with Xi Jinping (9Feb2017), as Chinese and US aircraft in mid-air close call” is a welcome relief for peace lovers in the Asia Pacific region. See <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/02/10/donaldtrump-reaffirms-one-china-policy-call-chinas-xi-jinping/>

- (c) The SBS reported dated 8 Feb 2017, covered the visit to Australia of China’s foreign minister Wang Yi the meeting with our Foreign Minister, the Hon Julie Bishop. Trump tore up the TPP on the basis of his “America First” stance and that has created an economic power vacuum in the Pacific. The SBS report headline “China’s foreign minister not keen on entering TPP
(<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2017/02/08/chinas-foreign-minister-not-keen-entering-tpp?cid=inbody:trump-backs-one-china-policy-in-first-call-with-xi>)

and “Foreign Minister Julie Bishop has emphasised the strength of Australia's relationship with China after meeting with the country's own Foreign Minister, Wang Yi”,
(<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2017/02/07/australias-relationship-china-could-not-be-stronger-bishop-says?cid=inbody:trump-backs-one-china-policy-in-first-call-with-xi>)

represent a window of opportunity for Australia to surge forward with an independent foreign policy on economics and trade; and warming up of bi-lateral relations with China. This step will bring Australia to the forefront as a regional leader in the Asia Pacific region.

Singapore has been sending military vehicles to Taiwan via Hong Kong on many occasions. The impounding of these equipment in Hong Kong sends a warning signal to the world that the One China policy is not negotiable and China is ready to take action to counter it. Why do Australia need to tread on the toes of the “awoken dragon”? The investment in Malaysia in the state of Johor and Malacca (port facilities); and the intended construction of a Thai canal in the Isthmus of Kra, linking the Gulf of Thailand with the Andaman Sea, is a clear signal to Singapore that its port facilities can be bypassed.

The AIIB and the One Belt Road is China’s way of winning friends using soft power which is mutually beneficial to the donor and recipient. Looking at the 57 nations, including Australia, China has done well in the eyes of the developing nations. Unlike the cold war days, one has to be on the US side or USSR side to get a dam build in your country. The win-win situation with no political strings attached (except an acknowledgement of One China policy) opens up peace and prosperity of developing country which urgently infrastructure to raise the GDP of their country.

US is still the No. 1 power and no one, including Russia or China, is interested in being No.1. Not allowing others to ascend to your level because you are top dog is a pretty selfish attitude. Australia has to look beyond this tunnel vision of the US viz a viz China. If the US does not gel support for its global containment of China, the world can then relax and look forward for a lasting peace in the Asia region.

An independent foreign policy for Australia in relation to the China-Australia relations, will put Australia on high moral grounds as a neutral and non-interfering nation, and a member of the Asia Pacific region. Such international respect will greatly benefit Australia in any bi-lateral relations with our Asia Pacific nations.

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