

SEEKING TO ENLARGE MUTUAL BENEFIT AND ACHIEVING A WIN-WIN SITUATION: THE ESSENTIAL APPROACH IN CONFLICT PREVENTION

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Abstract:

Conflicts originate in the confrontation of interest. The most effective approach of conflict prevention is to find the common interest, and have mutually beneficial cooperation based thereupon. The cross-Strait situation has been less intensive since the start of this year, but the risk of substantial deterioration remains. The primary way of preventing the cross-Strait conflict is the recognition of the “one China” principle by both sides of the Strait. The essence of the “one China” principle is the recognition of the status quo of neither reunification nor independence. Its core is opposing Taiwanese independence. Abiding by the principle is the maximum common divisor for the people on either side of the Strait and the Asia-Pacific region as a whole. Therefore, it is recommended that: 1). The Mainland has shown utmost sincerity by committing to the principle of “no declaration of independence, no use of force”. The only igniter of conflict is “Taiwanese independence de-jure” that separates Taiwan from the motherland. The ball of preventing conflict is in Taiwan’s court. 2). Dialogues can be held once Taiwan recognizes the “one China” principle. The subjects of discussion can range from military confidence building measures to mainland missile deployment, etc. 3). Although the DPP currently rejects the “one China” principle, the Mainland can still wait, but Chen Shui-bian must be in line with his “Four No’s plus One” assurance. 4). The establishment of “three links”, i.e. mutual trust can be built by economic and cultural cooperation and exchange.

The fourth round of six-party talks achieved some satisfactory results, but there is still a long way to go. There are some approaches in preventing the peninsula situation from deteriorating again. 1). The principle of “no nuclear weapons, no preemptive attacks, no disorder” should be abided by the parties involved. It represents the common interest of the Six Party participants and the Northeast Asian region. 2). Korea should quickly execute its nuclear abandonment commitment, and must not use the light water reactor as the precondition. 3). The United States must truly respect Korea’s security concerns, must not seek the objective of “overthrowing Kim’s regime”, and must not demonize Korea in its media. It is encouraged to have dialogue and consultation with Korea, not “lecture” them or threaten them. 4). All the parties continue to adopt the constructive attitudes of mutual understanding and mutual concession to ensure full implementation of the September agreement. 5). After Korea truly implements its nuclear abandonment commitment, all the parties should

encourage it to integrate into the international community by actively helping it adopt an opening and reforming policy.