Taipei's Olive Branches

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Let Peace and Goodwill Flourish in the Heart

The Olive branch used as a symbol of peace was originated from the tale of Noah's Ark in the Bible. Noah sent a dove out of the ark to check if the water had receded after several days of torrential rain. The dove returned with an olive branch, signifying that the flood had receded and that there was no more danger. The olive branch thus became a symbol of peace since then.

In this pamphlet, we use the metaphor of the olive branch to communicate the idea of peace. It contains thirty significant statements that convey the message of peace and goodwill to China, extended by President Chen Shui-bian and the cabinet officials in his administration. Each statement, policy action, and opening measure, is a profound expression of our commitment and hope for a sustaining cross-strait peace.

Cross-strait relations between Taiwan and China have long been complicated and full of uncertainty, in which both the domestic situation in China and the competition between the ruling and opposition parties in Taiwan played important roles in the views of the international community. Thus the development of cross-strait relations is not only a regional issue but also an issue of international concern.

Since the beginning of 2005, the government has successfully implemented the Lunar New Year charter flights for Taiwanese businessmen, ushering in a ray of hope for further improvement of cross-strait relations. However, China's insistence on the enactment of the "anti-separation law" (the so-called "anti-secession law") has strained cross-strait relations again. The visits to China by the leaders of Taiwan's opposition parties and China's attempts to use "united front" tactics to divide Taiwanese society have further impeded cross-strait relations. Realistically, even if both sides of the Strait could set aside disputes and mitigate confrontation, the pursuit of peaceful and conciliatory coexistence would remain a difficult task. It is our solemn duty to take advantage of new opportunities to create history.
In order to improve cross-strait relations, concrete and pragmatic actions should be taken to serve as necessary complements to goodwill statements. Ideas can spark in a flash or evolve over a lengthy period of time. We have continued to extend olive branches to China, although it has been trying to dwarf Taiwan politically, exploit Taiwan economically, suppress Taiwan diplomatically and threaten Taiwan militarily.

We sincerely believe that as long as we make efforts to let the seeds of goodwill and peace flourish in the heart of Chinese people, we will be rewarded with the fruits of our labor.

This pamphlet highlights Taiwan's longstanding goodwill toward China. We hope that this book invigorates cross-strait relations and that both sides could jointly create an atmosphere of goodwill and peace, together opening up magnificent and brighter prospects for future cross-strait relations.
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1 | The Basis of the "Four No's Plus One" Pledge

In his inauguration speech in 2000, President Chen Shui-bian pledged during his term in office that as long as China does not intentionally use military force...
against Taiwan, he would not declare independence, change the national title, push forth the inclusion of the so-called "state-to-state" description in the Constitution, and promote a referendum to change the status quo regarding the question of independence or unification. Furthermore, the abolishment of the Guidelines for National Unification and the National Unification Council will not be an issue.
Chinese Leader Invited for a Reconciliation Handshake.

At a press briefing held in June 2000, one month after his inauguration, President Chen Shui-bian proposed his willingness to meet with Chinese President Jiang Zemin under the model of the North and South Korea summit meeting where the leaders met for a "reconciliation" handshake. President Chen Shui-bian sincerely urged the mainland Chinese leader to work together with him to create a historic moment of handshakes. Without specifying any conditions, formality, or locations, both leaders could sit down,
shake hands and reconcile, and make their greatest contributions to the people on both sides of the Straits.
During a Latin American trip on September 2005, President Chen Shui-bian expressed his goodwill and sincerity again. President Chen invited Chinese leaders to make a reconciliation by shaking hands and conduct rational dialogues each other at any time, any place and without any precondition. This is aimed at opening up a "window of opportunity" for democracy and peace across the Strait.
Mainland Chinese Reporters Allowed to Station in Taiwan for News Coverage.

In order to create a balance in the flow of information across the Taiwan Straits and enhance mainland Chinese reporters' diverse observations and understanding of Taiwan, the government announced in November 2000 the policy to allow the reporters of four mainland Chinese news agencies, the Xinhua News Agency, the People's Daily, the China's Central People's Broadcasting Station, and the China Central Television, to station in Taiwan for news coverage. In December 2004, reporters from the China News Service were also allowed to come to Taiwan to cover news. It was hoped that the mainland Chinese reporters could accurately present the situations in Taiwan's society. However, some of them were unable to report accurately. The government expressed regret over the suspension of allowing two mainland Chinese news agencies to station reporters in Taiwan in May 2005.

It announced in August that the Southern Metropolitan Daily and Shanghai Xinmin Evening News can file application for stationing reporters in Taiwan. The necessary adjustments will be made based on the future conditions of cross-strait media exchange and interaction.
Supra-Party Task Force Proposed "Three Acknowledgements and Four Recommendations."

On December 6, 2000, the Supra-party Task Force proposed the "three acknowledgements and four recommendations." The Task Force considered the cross-strait status quo as a result of historical developments and believed that the people on both sides of the Strait can enjoy common interests in the long term.
It recommended that the President should enhance cross-strait relations, address cross-strait conflicts, and respond to China’s "one China" remarks, in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of China. The Task Force also proposed the establishment of a new mechanism and the adjustment of the existing mechanisms, so as to sustain the integration of the opinions of political parties in Taiwan and various sectors in society on national development and cross-strait relations.
Integration of Economies, Trade and Culture Will Serve as a Starting Point for Building a New Framework of Political Integration.

In his "Cross-century Remarks" on December 31, 2000, President Chen Shui-bian indicated that the people on both sides of the Taiwan Straits came from the same family, and that they all pursued the same goals of peaceful coexistence and mutual prosperity. He appealed to the government and leaders on the Chinese mainland to overcome the current dispute and deadlock. He stated that the integration of our economies, trade, and culture can be as a starting point for gradually building trust and confidence in each other. This, in turn, could be the basis for a new framework of permanent peace and political integration.
"Mini-Three-Links" is Implemented at Kinmen and Matsu.

Kinmen and Matsu lie close to the coastal areas of Fujian Province in mainland China. The local economy and social development of Kinmen and Matsu are inseparable from the mainland China. In order to promote a normalized development of cross-strait trade and economic relations, and enhance the welfare and positive interaction between the people on both sides of the Strait, the Taiwanese government started a trial implementation of the "Mini-Three-Links" in 2001.
This included two-way direct exchanges between the peoples, ships and cargo, and gradual expansion and liberalization of cross-strait passenger and cargo movement via Kinmen and Matsu to a certain degree. Since the trial implementation, there have been more than 7,000 shipping voyages and approximately 510,000 passengers who have traveled via the "Mini-Three-Links".
"Proactive Liberalization with Effective Management" Replaces "No Haste, Be Patient" Policy.

After one month of intense meetings, the Economic Development Advisory Conference (EDAC) convened by the Office of the President was successfully concluded on August 26, 2001 with several consensus reached. The final report of the EDAC's cross-strait committee consolidated the common views, including the basic principles of the promotion of cross-strait trade and economic development, the proactive liberalization of cross-strait trade and economy and investment, the establishment of a flexible mechanism for cross-strait capital flow, and the active promotion of the policy to allow mainland Chinese tourists to visit Taiwan. The administrative agencies also actively implemented the consensus in accordance with President Chen Shui-bian's declaration. With regard to China-bound investments, the Executive Yuan passed an implementation plan in November 2001 to adjust the "no haste, be patient" policy into a "proactive liberalization with effective management" policy and began implementing the new policy.
Cross-Strait Trade and Economic and Financial Exchanges are Reinforced.

In response to the long-term trend of cross-strait economic interaction and in consideration of its risk management mechanism, the Taiwanese government has continued to study the two-way flow of capital and personnel across the Taiwan Strait. It has gradually relaxed the commercial activities that could be engaged by mainland Chinese visitors in Taiwan, allowed the investment in Taiwan by mainland Chinese-capital companies, greatly eased restrictions on cross-strait financial exchanges, including the relaxation of direct remittances, the permission granted to banks, securities firms, and insurance companies to set up subsidiaries in mainland China. In addition, it has granted permission to the Overseas Banking Units (OBU) of Taiwan-based banks to provide more diverse banking services to Taiwanese businessmen in mainland China.
Taiwan will Abide by the Promises Made upon the Accession to the WTO.

After accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on January 1, 2002, Taiwan became an important member in the international community. To comply with the relevant regulations, the government actively adjusted its cross-strait trade and economic policies and announced its post-accession programs, including the relaxation of restrictions on the importation of mainland Chinese goods.

The proportion of items relaxed has now reached almost 80 percent. Moreover, cross-strait direct trading, direct investments, and remittances have also been liberalized in efforts to normalize cross-strait trade and economic relations.
Mainland Chinese Tourists are Allowed to Visit Taiwan for Sightseeing.

Taiwan has abundant resources in tourism. Mainland Chinese people are eager to visit tourist attractions in Taiwan. The relaxation policy to allow mainland Chinese tourists to visit Taiwan can impress them with Taiwan's social customs and the people's hospitality and the beautiful scenery, as well as their deeper understanding of Taiwan. Since the government partially implemented this policy to allow mainland Chinese tourists to visit Taiwan in January 2002, 57177 mainland Chinese tourists have visited Taiwan in those years.

In coordination with the program to double the number of tourists visiting the island, the Ministry of the Interior further amended related permit regulations in February 2005 and eliminated the restriction on mainland Chinese tourists who reside abroad or in Hong Kong and Macao must enter and leave Taiwan in groups. We have made preparations to conduct negotiations with China on the comprehensive opening of the visits to Taiwan by mainland Chinese tourists.
The President Extended his Invitation to the Mainland Chinese Leaders for a Chat Over a Cup of Tea in his Tatan Statement

President Chen Shui-bian, accompanied by a number of Taiwanese media executives, visited the Kinmen area on the “View Taiwan with Your Heart” tour. On May 9, 2002, at the nearby Tatan Island, President Chen indicated that the two sides of the Taiwan Strait are geographically very close to each other.
We are like neighbors and can invite each other for a cup of tea at home. President Chen is willing to invite the mainland Chinese leaders for a chat over a cup of tea at the Shen Chuan Teahouse. He believed that with perseverance and patience, the leaders of the two sides could certainly find the wisdom and creativity to pursue permanent peace and open this "window of opportunity" for reconciliation through friendly compromise and vigorous cooperation.
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Assistance will be Provided to China in its Path to Democratization.

President Chen Shui-bian convened a strategic conference at Sanchih on September 8, 2002 to discuss anti-terrorism and democracy issues. President Chen indicated that in order to assist mainland China in taking its first step towards democratization, we are willing to invite related mainland Chinese personnel to visit Taiwan and witness Taiwan's local elections. We are willing to assist China in the training of election staff, so as to build a foundation for the promotion of its democratization.
Cross-Strait Direct Transportation Links and Trade and Economic Relations can Serve as Issues for the Resumption of Cross-Strait Dialogue.

In his New Year's Day message in 2003, President Chen Shui-bian urged both sides to jointly promote constructive development in cross-strait relations based on the principles of "goodwill, active cooperation, and permanent peace."

The President reiterated that it is necessary for both sides to strive toward building a "Peace and Stability Framework for Cross-strait Interactions. "Both sides can create conditions for further cross-strait economic and cultural interactions by discussing and promoting issues on
cross-strait direct transportation links, as well as other relevant economic issues. This would enable both sides to work together to resolve long-term issues based on the principle of "democracy, parity, and peace."
Lunar New Year Charter Flights for Taiwanese Businessmen are Implemented.

Lunar New Year is the time for family reunions and gatherings among friends. The government has actively promoted the Lunar New Year charter flights for the transportation needs and conveniences of the Taiwanese businessmen and their family members when traveling across the Strait during the holiday. The Lunar New Year charter flights were first successfully implemented in 2003.
In 2005, concrete consensus on "two-way, reciprocal, and non-stop" flights were achieved with mainland China through negotiations, resulting in the successful implementation of the Lunar New Year charter flights. This has created a model for fast and convenient interactions across the Strait and new opportunities for positive dialogues. In the future, the government will promote this policy according to the changes in the cross-strait situation.
Cross-Strait Direct Transportation Links will be Promoted.

The promotion of the cross-strait "direct transportation links" is an established policy of the government. The Executive Yuan announced the "Assessment Report of the Impact on the Direct Cross-strait Transportation" on August 15, 2003, which contained in-depth analysis and explanations on the related issues regarding the "direct transportation links," as well as concrete planning on the orientation of the implementation. The relevant government agencies have also continued to actively promote the preparatory work related to the "direct transportation links."

The Measures for Cross-Strait Air and Sea Freight Facilitation were announced in September 2003 and May 2004, respectively. It was hoped that more experiences would be accumulated, in order to create more beneficial conditions and a more favorable environment for the cross-strait "direct transportation links."
Act Governing Relations between Peoples of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area is Amended and Promulgated.

The "Act Governing Relations between Peoples of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area" is the chief law that regulates the exchanges between the peoples on both sides of the Strait. To respond to the changes in the cross-strait situations and the objective environment, and to resolve the problems that arise from the frequent cross-strait exchanges, the MAC conducted the most drastic adjustment of the Act in ten years.
The amendment of the Act was promulgated by the President in October 2003 and took effect in December of the same year and in March 2004. The amendment served to form a new legal mechanism for cross-strait exchanges that embodies "reasonable liberalization" and "effective management."
Increased "Duplicate Entrustment Mode" of Negotiation Mechanism.

The cross-strait issues that needed to be negotiated have involved the powers and functions of various responsible government agencies and the combination of civic economy and commerce. In order to resume cross-strait negotiations, ensure the exercise of government authority is not eroded, and exclude individual interests from interfering, the government has introduced a mechanism involving the assistance of civic organizations and established an effective monitoring system.

The legislation of a "duplicated entrustment mode of negotiation mechanism" (negotiations will be engaged with the assistance of civic organizations) has highlighted the government's flexibility and pragmatism. It is hoped that this mechanism will assist in the resumption of cross-strait negotiations.
The Establishment of a "Peace and Stability Framework for Cross-Strait Interactions" is Promoted.

In pursuing "peace and development" as the basis of cross-strait relations, President Chen Shui-bian expounded on February 3, 2004, the significance of the "peaceful referendum." He convened a press conference for local and foreign reporters to explain that the main contents of a "Peace and Stability Framework for Cross-Strait Interactions" included the "One Principle and the Four Major Issue Areas." The "One Principle" is "Establishing the Principle of Peace." The "Four Major Issue Areas" are, namely, the establishment of negotiation mechanism, the exchanges based on equality and reciprocity, the establishment of political relationship, and the prevention of military conflicts. The signing of related agreements of the peace framework served to reduce tense cross-strait relations and to draw a new blueprint for normalized exchanges.
Possibility of Establishing any forms of Relations with China will not be Excluded.
In his second-term inauguration speech on May 20, 2004, President Chen Shui-bian expressed that if both sides are willing to create an environment of "peaceful development and freedom of choice" on the basis of goodwill, then the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China--or Taiwan and China--can seek to establish any forms of relations in the future. We would not exclude any possibilities, so long as there is the consent of the 23 million people of Taiwan.
The Government will Establish a "Committee for Cross-Strait Peace and Development" and Draft the "Guidelines for Cross-Strait Peace and Development."
Due to their dedicated commitment to national construction and development, both sides of the Strait need a peaceful and stable environment. In his inauguration address in 2004, President Chen Shui-bian announced that he would invite both the governing and opposition parties, in conjunction with representatives from various walks of the society, to participate in the establishment of a "Committee for Cross-Strait Peace and Development" in order to draft the "Guidelines for Cross-Strait Peace and Development." The goal would be to pave the way for formulating a new relationship of cross-strait peace, stability and sustainable development.
Constitutional Re-engineering Project will Exclude Issues Related to National Sovereignty, Territory, and the Subject of Unification / Independence
President Chen Shui-bian expressed in his 2004 inauguration address that he would promote the constitutional re-engineering project. However, a consensus has yet to be reached in Taiwan's society on issues related to national sovereignty, territory, and the subject of unification/independence. Therefore, the president proposed that these particular issues would be excluded from the constitutional re-engineering project. The rules set out in the existing Constitution and its amendments should be followed accordingly.
Taiwan Takes the Initiative to Cancel the Han-Kuang Military Exercise.

The Han-Kuang military exercises have been practiced by the military for several years. Based on the principle of peace, Taiwan took the initiative to extend its goodwill intentions. On August 30, 2004, Taiwan canceled the Han-Kuang exercise originally scheduled to display Taiwan's military power. President Chen Shui-bian indicated that military buildup in preparation for war is aimed at pursuing an end to war, avoiding war, and attaining permanent peace. It is by no means aimed at engaging in a military competition with China.
Taiwan will Use the Basis of the 1992 Hong-Kong Meeting to Actively Pursue Dialogues and Negotiations.

The Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) and the Association for Relations across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) held meetings in Hong Kong in 1992. Their joint efforts paved the way for the Koo-Wang Talks in the following year.
In his address at the National Day Rally in 2004, President Chen Shui-bian proposed that both sides could use the basis of the 1992 meeting in Hong Kong to seek possible arrangements that are "not necessarily perfect but acceptable," as preparation of a step forward in the resumption of dialogues and negotiations. The president's new proposal for improving cross-strait relations in his National Day Rally address also opened a window of opportunity for cross-strait negotiations.
Both Sides of the Taiwan Strait shall Create a Cooperative Model by Four Stages.

Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) Chairman Jaushieh Joseph Wu wrote an exclusive article for the September/October edition of the bimonthly New Zealand International Review magazine. Chairman Wu proposed to create a cooperative model with China by the following four stages.
They are: (1) the expansion of the scope of cultural and economic exchanges; (2) the resumption of dialogue and negotiation with China on substantive issues; (3) the establishment of an interim framework for peace and stability; and (4) the resolution of cross-strait political differences for a final settlement in any form.
Taiwan Proposes that Both Sides Establish "Taiwan Strait Consultation Mechanism" for Military Security and Develop the "Code of Conduct Across the Taiwan Strait."
The maintenance of stability and peaceful status quo across the Taiwan Strait has been an issue of international concern. President Chen Shui-bian issued a ten-point directive at a high-level national security meeting on November 10, 2004. Aside from offering its assurance that Taiwan will never develop weapons of mass destruction, he also emphasized that stability across the Taiwan Strait transcended all other interests. President Chen also proposed that both sides work together to establish military buffer zones, establish a "Taiwan Strait consultation mechanism" for military security, and through this mechanism, gradually develop a "Code of Conduct Across the Taiwan Strait."
The Establishment of an Academic Confidence Building Mechanism is Proposed.

MAC Chairman Jaushieh Joseph Wu was invited to deliver a speech at the Third Forum on Taiwan-Japan Exchanges on December 4, 2004. Chairman Wu presented a proposal on an Academic Confidence Building Mechanism (ACBM).
The concrete steps in the ACBM included the following: (1) that both governments appoint on each side an outstanding scholar to engage in an in-depth investigation and study; (2) that the scholars may, upon authorization, act as a bridge for the exchange of information between both governments; (3) that both governments shall mutually inform each other of major international conferences; and (4) that an invitation shall be extended to the other side for participation in public forums. This would create favorable conditions for our promotion of normalized cross-strait interactions.
An Invitation is Extended to ARATS Chairman Wang Daohan for His Visit to Taiwan.

President Chen Shui-bian was invited to deliver an address at the memorial service of the late Straits Exchange Foundation Chairman Koo Chen-foo on February 2, 2005.
He highly praised the efforts of the late Chairman Koo and Chairman Wang Daohan of the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) in resuming cross-strait dialogues. Although it would be unfeasible to hold "Koo-Wang Talks" again, the president still extended a personal invitation to Chairman Wang and welcomed him to visit Taiwan if time and health permit him to come.
Cross-Strait Freight Facilitation Measures are Promoted

During the Lunar New Year gathering of Taiwanese Businessmen in China on February 16, 2005, President Chen Shui-bian proposed three wishes for the new year. He hoped that the cross-strait freight facilitation measures would be further implemented based on the achievements of the direct Lunar New Year charter flights for the Taiwanese businessmen. The government has actively prepared for the negotiations on the cargo charter flights. Due to the smooth implementation of the Lunar New Year charter flights through cross-strait efforts, the Taiwanese government has mapped out flexible plans for the cargo charter flights according to its plan of the Freight Facilitation Measures announced in 2003. The government also urged China to make a positive response by showing equal goodwill, to pave the foundation for promoting cross-strait direct transportation links.
It is Imperative to Maintain Status Quo in Cross-Strait Relations and Jointly Create Peace.

President Chen Shui-bian and People First Party Chairman James Soong signed a joint statement after an exchange of views on February 24, 2005. They confirmed that the present cross-strait relations should be developed based on the highest principles of "adherence to the Constitution, maintenance of status quo, and cooperation in promoting peace." On the premise of cross-strait peace, President Chen committed to his "Four Nos Plus One" pledge. Any changes to the status quo of the Taiwan Strait must come with the consent of the twenty-three million people of Taiwan. On the basis of goodwill from both sides, we would not exclude any possibilities to establish future relations between the two sides in any form.
Taiwan's Pragmatism and Sincerity are Displayed by Designating Civic Organizations to Handle Matters Concerning Contacts and Negotiations.

Premier Frank Hsieh announced on June 13, 2005 that the Taiwanese government has entrusted the Taipei Airlines Association, the Taiwan External Trade Development Council, and other appropriate civic organizations to assist in contacting the Chinese authorities and arranging negotiations on the issues of the cargo charter flights, Taiwan’s agricultural exports to China, and the visits to Taiwan by mainland Chinese tourists. In the end of July, the government announced again that the Travel Agent Association of ROC, Taiwan (TAAT) will serve as the window for discussing tourism issues. The government has extended its goodwill through substantive actions and has fully expressed its sincere intention to negotiate. This is aimed at pragmatically resolving cross-strait issues.
The prophet Isaiah made the following prophecy of a magnificent future: "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them." (Is 11:6)

The most precious sight is of all humanity and living creatures living together in harmony.

Our commitment to creating "goodwill, active cooperation, and permanent peace" in cross-strait relations is unwavering. We believe this is an attainable goal.