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November 11, 2015

The Honorable Nikki Haley  
Governor  
State of South Carolina  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

I'm writing to share momentous news with you: on November 7, President Ma Ying-jeou and mainland China's President Xi Jinping made history by meeting in Singapore. It was the first meeting between leaders across the Taiwan Strait since 1949. Last week, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said the US welcomes efforts to reduce tensions and improve relations between China and Taiwan.

Although the leaders did not engage in political negotiations, sign an agreement, or issue a joint statement at the meeting, it was indeed a milestone in cross-strait relations, highlighting the determination of both sides to maintain peace and prosperity in the Taiwan Strait. President Ma's efforts to improve relations with mainland China since he took office in 2008 have resulted in agreements boosting trade and investment, increasing academic exchanges and tourism, and promoting cooperative approaches to public health issues.

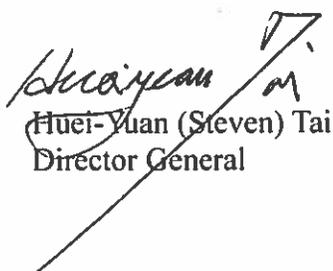
Since 1992, Taiwan and mainland China have maintained a peaceful and prosperous status quo on the basis of the consensus of one China, respective interpretations. The Mainland Affairs Council and the Taiwan Affairs Office normalized a cross-strait liaison mechanism in 2014, paving the way for the best cross-strait relations in 66 years of separate governance.

The core issues at the Ma-Xi meeting were condensed into five points: consolidating the 1992 consensus and maintaining peace across the Taiwan Strait; reduction of hostility and peaceful handling of disputes; expansion of cross-strait exchanges and mutual benefits; establishment of a cross-strait hot line to exchange views on important issues; and joint cooperation for cross-strait prosperity.

President Ma's visionary leadership and viable diplomacy helped lay the groundwork for Saturday's historic event.

As always, my colleagues and I are grateful for your continuing support and friendship with Taiwan. Any questions or comments are welcome.

Best regards.

  
Hsuei-Yuan (Steven) Tai  
Director General

*I cherish your friendship and support.*  
Steven