

中華民國立法院
LEGISLATIVE YUAN
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

December 29, 2009

The Honorable John Kerry
Chairman
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
SD-439
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kerry :

I first would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for the support that you and other members of Congress have demonstrated to the Republic of China (Taiwan) over the last 30 years. Despite the absence of official relations, our common goals, interests, and commitment to democratic governance and shared values remain strong.

We are writing on behalf of the people of Republic of China (Taiwan) to raise a matter of the utmost importance to our country - the follow-on procurement of additional F-16 fighters.

Our nation has attempted to purchase follow-on F-16s since 2006 to upgrade our national defense by replacing our aging F-5s , budget affordability , different type fighters availability and other antiquated equipment and thereby respond to the growing threat that the People's Republic of China (PRC) and its military's modernization efforts represent to peace and security in the Taiwan Strait.

President Ma Ying-jeou recently stated, "We still hope to acquire F-16 C/D jet fighters to replace the ageing fighters we have, but so far we haven't received a positive answer from the United States."

President Ma and the Legislative Yuan (LY) speak with one voice on this matter as we have for several years. The LY continues to budget significant funds for this program in the hope that the US government will overcome political concerns over how this sale will impact relations with the PRC. We have made that calculation and believe that this sale and the commensurate American support it shows for Taiwan is essential if we are to continue to engage the PRC in dialogue.

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If America softens its support for our country at this critical time we believe it will have an adverse effect on cross-Strait relations as Taiwan's negotiating position is weakened and the PRC may then seek to capitalize on our situation. Though we are a lively democracy that debates many important issues Taiwan speaks with one voice when it comes to our national security.

Though economic and diplomatic relations with the PRC's Communist Party are improving, we face a significant threat from the People's Liberation Army Air Force. As you are aware, the PRC has a lethal fleet of fourth generation fighter aircraft and is now developing a fifth generation fighter and the first jet could be deployed by 2017. Our air force is badly in need of replacement aircraft to maintain a viable deterrent fighting force to ensure a balance of power. Our military must be able to defend our airspace as a further deterioration in the air balance across the Strait will only encourage PRC aggression.

We respectfully ask you to support our clear military need to upgrade our F-16 force by supporting a follow-on sale of F-16s. Your support will contribute immeasurably to America and Taiwan's shared interest in democracy and peace and security in the Taiwan Strait.

Sincerely yours,

cc. The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee

The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Minority, Senate Armed Services Committee

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English Names of Signatories

English Name	Committee
Shuai, Hwa-Ming	Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee
Tsai, Huang-Liang	Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee
Liao, Wan-Ju	Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee
Pan, Wei-kang	Judiciary, Laws and Statutes Committee
Yang Cheng, Chin-Lin	Education and Culture Committee
Cheng, Li-Wun	Social Welfare, Sanitation and Environment Committee
Chen, Shu-Huey	Finance Committee
Lin, Cheng-Er	Education and Culture Committee
Chiang, Nai-Shin	Education and Culture Committee
Wang, Chin-Shih	Home Affairs Committee
Kung, Wen-Chi	Social Welfare, Sanitation and Environment Committee
Chao, Li-Yun	Education and Culture Committee
Chang, Ching-Chung	Home Affairs Committee
Sun, Ta-Chien	Finance Committee
Lin, Te-Fu	Finance Committee
Oyon, Putal-Pacidal	Transportation Committee
Lu, Chia-Chen	Home Affairs Committee
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