

Editor

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APRIL 10 1976
Taiwan's China

SUNDAY

To the Editor:

The article in The Week in Review of April 11 is just as wrong as it can be about American plans to abandon our legal ties with the Republic of China.

You state that it was "the almost universal expectation" that "formal diplomatic recognition of Communist rule in China" would be accomplished in Mr. Nixon's second term. You further assert that "American officials clearly understood that this would mean the severing of formal ties with the Nationalist regime on the island of Taiwan . . . and the abrogation of a mutual security treaty with Taiwan."

You are wrong. I was told on two occasions after Mr. Nixon's visit to mainland China that the United States would never grant formal diplomatic recognition to Red China. I was given a personal assurance immediately after Mr. Nixon had completed his visit and I was subsequently given a reaffirmation of that pledge. I was also assured on each occasion by then President Nixon that the United States would not terminate its defense commitment to the Republic of China.

You appear to believe that by accepting the view that there is "only one China" the United States must endorse the Communist regime. You fail to recognize that the United States can and does support Taiwan's claim to China (that is, we recognize the right of the Republic of China on Taiwan to represent all the Chinese people) and not the Communist claim to Taiwan. Taiwan is a province of China, but China belongs in the legal and diplomatic sense to the Chinese Government on Taiwan.

The 16 million Chinese on Taiwan have achieved remarkable advances in democracy, freedom and economic development. The Maoists claim to have eradicated the common housefly on the mainland, but the Republic of China has expanded the blessings of human freedom on Taiwan. I find it impossible to conceive how the United States, with its 200 years of history as the representative of democracy and freedom, could ever consider delivering over the peaceful people on Taiwan to the tyrants who govern the mainland, and I am convinced that this will not happen.

BARRY GOLDWATER
United States Senator, Arizona
Washington, April 12, 1976