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When Biden entered the White House with the declaration that “America is back”, the new administration intended to reclaim its respectable global leadership with the following three steps: first, unite the democratic countries; second, return to the international organizations and agreements; third, maintain its advanced military power and reconstruct the global system of arm control. With this background, its policy towards China changed, too. The previous key word used to describe China as “the China threat” has been replaced by “the China challenge”. “Sino-US Decoupling” also disappeared. Instead, the US intends to work with China and other Northeast Asian countries in dealing with the denuclearization process in the Korean Peninsula.

Even though the discourse has changed completely, the new administration maintains its harsh attitude towards China with the same purpose of “containing” China. In the new administrative rhetoric, China is now “the strategic competitor”. Different from the previous version of “full confrontational enemy”, this leaves more room for multilateral cooperation, but at the same time, more room for competition, too.

In practice, the new administration adopts different tactics that can be described in the

following four areas. First, more multilateral work instead of unilateral confrontation. In other words, the US will form a “unified” effort with its allies in urging China to follow the international rules. Second, more emphasis on the competition in science and technology. In the fields of AI, 5G, highspeed railroad, and clean energy, the US will intensify its investment for R&D and collaborate with the other countries in order to compete with China. Third, with its believing in free trade, the new administration will not focus on charging more tax on the labor-intensive products imported from China. Instead, it will maintain its embargo of high-tech products to China. Finally, the issue of Taiwan will become more important in the Sino-US relationship. The new administration will pay extra attention to Taiwan’s democratic system and let its Taiwanese friends to have “confidence”.

As China just finished the trade war with the US and stabilized Hong Kong’s social condition after a massive anti-government movement in 2020, the country with the largest population on earth turned to fight the pandemic with its all efforts and focus. From the China’s perspective, the country and its people are searching for a peaceful global social environment for their sustainable development. China’s contribution to a peaceful region and a stable Eurasian continent could be seen in its signing of RCEP and collaborative work with EU.

Under such circumstances, regional risk of conflict remains when the Taiwan issue was constantly brought up by the US and the Taiwan government. Few days before the Trump administration finished its term, State Secretary Pompeo announced that the US ambassador to the United Nations will visit Taiwan and all of the previous barriers for the US officials’ visits of Taiwan will be released. All of these moves triggered the

Chinese government's strongest resistance and negative responses. The Chinese government took these moves as the American's challenge of the one-China principle which has been the foundation for the Sino-US relationship and China is willing to commit all its efforts to fight for such challenges.

The Taiwan issue is China's domestic issue and the Trump's administration moves only adds up tension for the region. With China's strongest voices to against the moves, the Biden administration starts to send out peaceful messages while the EU also refused to arrange Pompeo's last visit in Brussel. As the results, all of the arranged visits to Taiwan got cancelled. But the meeting was still held online and the record remains to be intolerable from the mainland's side.

For people from the both sides of the Taiwan strait, these moves are risky. To ensure a peaceful regional condition, these moves should be avoided in the future. On Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, China's ambassador to the US Cui Tiankai re-emphasized the importance of the Taiwan issue in the Sino-US relationship. China minds its unity and integrity and this is the foundation for the Sino-US relationship. Any violation of this can cause conflict between the two countries. Cui proposed four advocates in dealing with the Sino-US relationship.

First, mutual trust instead of misjudgment. Different histories, cultures, and social systems are not the reasons for confrontational conflicts. These could be the motivation and pushing power for cooperation. Any ideological bias should be abandoned.

Second, dialogue instead of confrontation. With the mutual respect and sincerity, frank

dialogue can create comprehension, increase trust, and release suspicion. Any rumors on “the uselessness of dialogue“ is to promote confrontation.

Third, cooperation instead of competition and conflict. China welcomes the US’s returning to WHO and Paris Agreement. China is also willing to work with the US in dealing with the global financial risk.

Finally, communication instead of separation. Cultural exchange should not be blocked and destroyed. More and more Chinese students are questioning whether the US is still the destination for their academic dreams. Can the academic research and studies be conducted outside of the political cloud? Chinese tourists are also questioning whether their visa would be denied because of their political believing? Chinese entrepreneurs are also asking whether the fair market still exists?

To correspond Cui’s Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> talk, on the same day, the new State Secretary Antony Blinken called the Sino-US relationship the most important one in the future. It has both sides of competition and cooperation. Learning how to deal with this critical relationship can benefit both countries in the future.