

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

FD 003

DATE RECEIVED: AUGUST 28, 1992

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: DR. DAVID W. TSAI PH.D.

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO ALLOW THE SALE OF
AMERICAN-MADE F-16 AIRCRAFT TO TAIWAN

ACTION DISPOSITION

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME) ACT CODE DATE YY/MM/DD TYPE RESP C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD

✓ DEPARTMENT OF STATE	RL	YAF ORG	09 01 92/08/28	Q, A B	no date given
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4400 4690

MI MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

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| *ACTION CODES: | *DISPOSITION | *OUTGOING | * |
| * | * | *CORRESPONDENCE: | * |
| *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION | *A-ANSWERED | *TYPE RESP=INITIALS | * |
| *C-COMMENT/RECOM | *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL | * OF SIGNER | * |
| *D-DRAFT RESPONSE | *C-COMPLETED | * CODE = A | * |
| *F-FURNISH FACT SHEET | *S-SUSPENDED | *COMPLETED = DATE OF | * |
| *I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC* | | * OUTGOING | * |
| *R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * | | | * |
| *S-FOR-SIGNATURE * | | | * |
| *X-INTERIM REPLY * | | | * |
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KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
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CENTER FOR TAIWAN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

538 Seventh Street, S.E. • Washington, D.C. 20003 • Tel. (202) 543-6287 • Fax: (202) 543-7891

August 21, 1992

The Honorable President George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to urge you to allow the sale of American-made F-16 fighter aircraft to Taiwan. We feel that such a sale is in the best interests of the peoples of Taiwan and the United States, the security of Asia and Pacific region and American Asian policy.

China's acquisition of sophisticated Su-27 Russian fighters and Mig-31 fighter interceptors has disturbed the balance of power across the Taiwan Straits. Modern Western aircraft are required to redress the imbalance. The F-16, with its ability to deliver an array of American-made air-to-air and air-to-surface munitions, is ideally suited to this role. The authorities in Taiwan have requested to purchase this aircraft.

Taiwan must have modern aircraft to counter the Su-27 and Mig-31. If the island does not purchase the F-16, it will look elsewhere to fill its defense needs. The Taiwanese government is currently negotiating with the French to purchase Mirage 2000-5 fighters as a possible alternative. The sale of the F-16s will eventually be worth billions to American companies and will have positive effects on the balance of trade. Its economic benefits are obvious. The F-16's American maker, General Dynamics, would have to cut jobs and scale back production here in the United States if Taiwan is forced to buy elsewhere.

The U.S. has longstanding ties to the people of Taiwan. Its obligations to the people of Taiwan are clearly spelled out in the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) of 1979, which directs the U.S. in Section 2 (b) "to provide Taiwan with arms of a defensive nature..." and which further mandates in Section 3 (a) that the United States "make available such defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability." Section 3 (b) states that "the President and the Congress shall determine the nature and quantity of such defense articles and services based solely upon their judgement of the needs of Taiwan, in accordance with procedures established by law."

Under the terms of the TRA, the United States has both the right and responsibility to maintain peace and stability in East Asia by supplying American-made defensive weapons to the people of Taiwan. The sale of F-16 fighter aircraft to Taiwan will fulfill these obligations, and demonstrate America's continuing commitment to stability and growth in Taiwan and the surrounding region.

President Bush
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As you are aware, China has never renounced the use of force to annex Taiwan which has been one of America's most important allies and trading partners. Sentiment in favor of a harder stance against China since the 1989 massacre has been strong in Congress and the sale of the F-16s is supported by lawmakers from both sides of the aisle. Over one hundred Congressmen have signed letters urging you to approve the transaction.

A free, stable, secure and independent Taiwan is in the best interests of the United States and the entire free world. It also means outlets for American goods and jobs for American workers. Our Taiwanese American community believe this sale is vital to the long-term security and stability of Taiwan as well as of great potential benefit to America's economic and political interests in East Asia.

Mr. President, we strongly urge you to approve the sale of this aircraft to Taiwan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David W. Tsai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David W. Tsai, Ph. D.
President



United States Department of State

*Assistant Secretary of State
for Politico-Military Affairs*

Washington, D.C. 20520

Mr. David W. Tsai
President
Center for Taiwan
International Relations
538 Seventh Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Mr. Tsai:

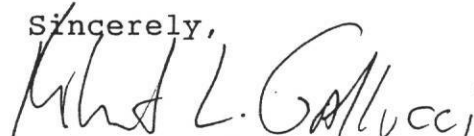
I am responding on behalf of President Bush to your letter of August 21 regarding the sale of F-16 combat aircraft to Taiwan.

I am pleased to tell you that the President announced on September 2 that the U.S. is prepared to sell F-16A/B combat aircraft to Taiwan in accordance with our obligations under the Taiwan Relations Act. In keeping with the Act, we make available defense articles and defense services in such quantity as we believe necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability, and we base our judgments in this area on a careful assessment of the needs of Taiwan.

Our policy on arms sales to Taiwan is both sensitive and unique. In the 1982 US-PRC Joint Communique, we set forth an approach to Taiwan arms sales premised on Beijing's fundamental commitment to a peaceful policy toward Taiwan. We believe this formula serves the purposes of the Taiwan Relations Act in terms of Taiwan's security. It has clearly had its desired effect of reducing tension in the Taiwan Strait; great strides have been made in the last few years in reducing tensions between Taipei and Beijing. The President's decision does not change the commitment of the U.S. government to this communique or to the peace and stability in the area which it promotes.

We will keep the evolving security situation in the Taiwan Strait, and Taiwan's defense needs, under continuing review, and I can assure you we will not fail to take the necessary actions to meet our obligations under the Taiwan Relations Act. Again, thank you for your letter to the President.

Sincerely,


Robert L. Gallucci

Enclosure: correspondence returned.