



AMERICAN INSTITUTE IN TAIWAN

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Taiwan US

Doug,

I gave a 30 minute talk
the other day which would be
more than you would want to
know (or more likely much less
than you already know) about
Taiwan.

Attached is a summary of
what it was about FYI

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- I. The present trends that influence the U.S.-Taiwan relationship
 - A. There is the continuing strong association in our educational systems.
 - B. There is the very strong economic and commercial relationship between us.
 - C. There is Taiwan's important international economic presence.
 - D. There is the new economic and people-to-people relationship with the PRC.
 - E. There is the substantial expansion in the number of people who travel abroad from Taiwan.
 - F. There is the growth in the perception of a Taiwan identity, both at home and abroad.
 - G. There are the now irreversible political reforms and the new generation of leaders spurring the changes.
 - H. There are the fundamental issues of ethnic power and national status now openly debated.

II. The Implications:

1. The bilateral relationship, through education, travel and commerce, remains as strong as ever, and that we will continue to be a vital factor in Taiwan's future.
2. A large percentage of the people of Taiwan, travelling as extensively as they do, have a heightened sense of their identity, are more aware of what they have accomplished, want recognition for it, and strongly support their leaders in seeking it.
3. The expanding contacts and economic activity with the Mainland have both negative and positive influence on any movement to resolve the issue between them.
4. Democratization, bringing full participation by all the people in the governing of the island, will also heighten debate on sensitive issues that will challenge the leadership and its changing institutions.