

Country Briefing - The Republic of China

Political Briefing

Introduction

Since 1949 the Republic of China (ROC) often known as Taiwan has been in a constant struggle against the People's Republic of China (PRC). Our population (23.5 million), GDP (689bn USD), and military capabilities (170,000 soldiers) are far behind that of the PRC. Officially we do not claim to be an independent country, rather are the continuation of the ROC, thus claiming the whole Chinese mainland. Unofficially however we have long seen the writing on the wall, while from across the strait the PRC considers us to be no more than a break-away province. Only 14 minor U.N members recognize us instead of the PRC.

Despite the establishment of more favourable relations after the end of Cold War with Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao, Xi Jinping has been violently arguing for the return of Taiwan to the PRC through military force. We have long suffered daily intrusions into our air defense identification zone by the PRC air force, and coercive economic and diplomacy offensives. But now China has decided to cross the Rubicon. Beijing has used its military to attack and occupy the Pratas and Minami Kojima Islands trapping us in a pincer movement. We are now under blockade, isolated by all but air, sitting inside a noose that is slowly being drawn closed.

Strategic Objectives

There has been and will only ever be one goal: we must remain free of the People's Republic of China. We shall take all necessary measures to secure Taiwan and its people from Beijing. However, countless Taiwanese lives would be lost in a full-scale war or invasion of Taiwan. Therefore we should avoid initiating the Third World War if at all possible.

National Strategy

Taiwan is on the verge of losing its struggle against the PRC. Last night, the People's Liberation Army Navy attacked our garrison at Pratas Island and occupied the empty island of Minami Kojima. At this time casualties are unknown, but we know hundreds of our soldiers were killed our captured doing their duty, and by now the islands are occupied by the enemy. It was decided to carry out a proportionate strike against the Chinese Task force centered on the aircraft carrier Liaoning to signal resolve but also to try to prevent further escalation. As of yet no further fighting has taken place, but Chinese Coast Guard assets have begun to surge around our island, cutting us off and isolating us. The PRC has proclaimed a so-called "customs inspections zone", and anything wanting to enter or exit Taiwan by sea or air is required to first pass through the mainland for inspection. This "customs inspections zone" amounts to a complete blockade by sea, but short of shooting down airliners they cannot stop air travel. The United States and our allies have already agreed to begin airlifting in needed supplies.

This is the only bright dot in the blockade against us and we are now facing the greatest crisis in our existence as a free nation. We lost most contact with the outside world. The decisions, measures, and actions taken in the days to come will decide whether we accept complete PRC subjugation, or whether Taiwan remains free from PRC domination.

There are the three main preoccupations for our national strategy:

- Maintenance of excellent relations with the United States under the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). The treaty allows the U.S to supply arms to Taiwan and is our major source for non-indigenous defense equipment. It is important to note that while it seems likely the United States will come to our defense, there is no mandatory guarantee made by the U.S to defend Taiwan and such a decision remains at their discretion. Taiwan furthermore has an extensive relationship with Japan, which is seen as a major economic and cultural partner as well as a potential defense guarantor, and recently signaled a willingness to come to our defense.
- The blockade is the most immediate threat to our existence. Without any contact with the outside world, Taiwan would shortly suffer collapse. Thankfully we are self-sufficient on many of the necessary goods with one exception: energy. Ships would easily supply us with more than enough fuel, but the blockade has prevented them from coming to port. The airlift will be critical to supplying us with enough fuel to prevent power outages that would paralyze us, destroying the economy, spoiling food, and leading to breakdown. We must find a way to lift the blockade and to mitigate its consequences.
- All action shall be taken with great care to avoid an all-out invasion and occupation of Taiwan. While the likelihood of such an attack being successful is remote, it is an existential threat to our country. If such a scenario becomes unavoidable, we must take all necessary measures to defend the freedom of Taiwan. We have all seen in Hong Kong what happens to democracy under the CCP. In Taiwan it will only be worse. We must not fall.

Special Orders

Mobilization

The President, or the Minister of National Defense with approval from the President may issue mobilization orders for the following categories of reservists to be called up.

A-Level Reservists – Reservists to fill in gaps in already maned infantry brigades allowing 9 well equipped brigades to be fully readied for combat.

B-Level Reservists – Reservists who are active duty personal currently in detached duty in the professional military education system allowing for 2 infantry brigades to be readied for combat.

C-Level Reservists – Reservists from local areas who will be mobilized to defend their hometowns in small units. These troops are made of older and less well-trained reservists and will fight as light infantry providing large numbers of “speedbumps” for Chinese forces as they attempt to maneuver on the island. They cannot be moved long distances as they have no organic transport. Total mobilization will be 22 brigades worth of soldiers.

D-Level Reservists – Reservists from soldiers of the mobilization structure, e.g., military police and administrative units. If they are called up mobilization of previously unmobilized other units (C-Level especially) will be slower. The total number of units that could be formed is unknown, but 2-3 brigades of infantry is expected.

Aircraft Dispersal

The President, or the Minister of National Defense without prior approval from the President may order the dispersal of the Air Force to our two mountain bases and to operate from highways and civilian airports. Doing so will dramatically increase the survivability of the Air Force but will substantially lessen the sortie rate and planes will be able to carry less fuel, missiles, and bombs.