

## The “Three Ds” Strategy for the Interests of All

Luncheon Keynote at the U.S.-Taiwan Defense Industry Conference

Dr. Alexander Chieh-cheng Huang

KMT Representative to the United States

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Thank you Rupert, my old friend, you're too kind for this introduction.

AIT Chair Rosenberg, Deputy Minister of Defense for Armament General Hsu, my dear old friends from governments and industries of both the United States and Taiwan. Good afternoon!

I'm honored to be here again, representing the KMT, to share with you the national security vision and defense policy guidelines for the upcoming presidential elections and my observation and understanding of our candidate – the New Taipei City Mayor Dr. Hou Yu-ih.

For nearly 20 months, the world has been overshadowed by the war in Ukraine and no one can see how it would be ended. The so-called “normalized combat-readiness patrol” (常態化戰備警巡) of the Chinese People's Liberation Army encircling Taiwan since August last year has brought about an end of the decades-long tacit understanding of the median line of the Taiwan Strait. Since the 2<sup>nd</sup> Taiwan Strait Crisis in 1958, Taiwan has never been too close to a war for 65 years. The wake-up calls are loud and clear to us and that's why in this coming presidential election, our candidate Hou Yu-ih, in his article published last month by *Foreign Affairs*, has laid out the “three Ds” national security strategy guidelines – namely deterrence, dialogue, and de-escalation.

Here, I'm happy to inform you that the “Hou for President” Campaign HQs will host a formal public event in Taipei later this month to reveal his comprehensive foreign and defense policies.

In the past few years, the Taiwan Strait has gradually lost its healthiness and is now with high fever. We must bring the temperature down, i.e. de-escalate the tension, and a smart therapy of combining deterrence and dialogue, we believe, can shift the current “high-tension, no-shooting status quo” to a more “peaceful and stable status quo.”

Traveling with Dr. Hou through the United States last month, I was impressed that in almost every meeting he had with American friends, he repetitively stated that he had no unrealistic expectations about Beijing's intentions of seeking unification, and if necessary, by force.

Therefore, I must reiterate and elaborate that **building deterrence should not be interpreted as provocation, and seeking dialogue is absolutely not an act of appeasement.**

We highly appreciate the Biden Administration's approach to building up deterrence capability in the entire Indo-Pacific while seeking senior dialogues with Beijing. We are adopting the same approach and the KMT is the only party in Taiwan that can practice that. Doing things in a concerted way, the spirit of "**you help me to help you**" can enhance a better partnership between Taiwan and the United States when dealing with Beijing.

Based on Dr. Hou's *Foreign Affairs* article entitled "Taiwan's Path Between Extremes: The Kuomintang Presidential Candidate Lays Out a Plan to Avert War With China," let me give you some highlights of Dr. Hou's defense policy.

1. The national security objective is "stability in the Taiwan Strait (台海安定), security for Taiwan (台灣安全), and peace of mind for the world (世界安心). The combinational of "deterrence, dialogue, and de-escalation" is the strategy that supports such goal.
2. "Taiwan must creatively use available weapons and technologies, developing innovative and asymmetric capabilities. . ."  
As I pointed out last year, improve our capability in asymmetric operations by rebalancing military investments and acquisition of defense systems that are necessary and available for near-term contingencies.
3. To deal with "the increasing numbers of gray zone actions," Dr. Hou will "establish an early warning system."  
This in fact is echoed in Admiral Richard Chen's presentation this morning that establishing a "common operations picture" (COP) through a focus on C5ISR capability is crucial for Taiwan to better deal with future threats.

4. As I have argued before its creation and also in my speech last year that the current mobilization agency under the Ministry of National Defense can hardly perform interagency coordination, Dr. Hou “will establish a cabinet-level All-Out Defense Mobilization Council . . . chaired by vice premier.”  
All-out mobilization of course requires all-agency involvement and coordinated actions.
5. Dr. Hou believes “Taiwan should deepen its collaboration with the United States in various areas such as sharing intelligence and promoting regular joint training exercises. Such cooperation will strengthen mutual military interoperability to improve coordination between Taiwan’s forces and those of its partners in case of a contingency.”

“I will not take the United States’ security support of Taiwan for granted, and I will also not cause any unnecessary trouble for our friends. Under my leadership, Dr. Hou said, Taiwan will be a peacemaker committed to reducing risks.”

I am very humbled and pleased that quite a few points I raised in my speech at this conference last year are now included. In the coming weeks, there will be a more comprehensive briefing in Taipei on Dr. Hou’s defense policy platform. So, stay tuned!

In a few days, we will celebrate the 112<sup>th</sup> birthday of my beloved country – the Republic of China. I truly believe that with your unwavering support, the beacon of Taiwan's democracy will shine far beyond the island.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude again to the U.S.-Taiwan Business Council for the invitation.

I bet that you do want to see me again, but Rupert, it is my sincere hope that next year you will invite my friend from DPP to deliver this luncheon speech.

Thank you and God bless you all.

I’m ready to take any questions you might have.