## Trump-Xi meeting needs attention

Written by Taipei Times Editorial Wednesday, 05 April 2017 10:31

US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping (\$\Bigcup\$ are to meet in Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida tomorrow and on Friday.

The Chinese are sure to bring up the Taiwan question, as they always do, and request the US accept and abide by Beijing's "one China" principle.

How Trump will respond is likely causing government officials to lose sleep.

How will the summit affect Taiwan?

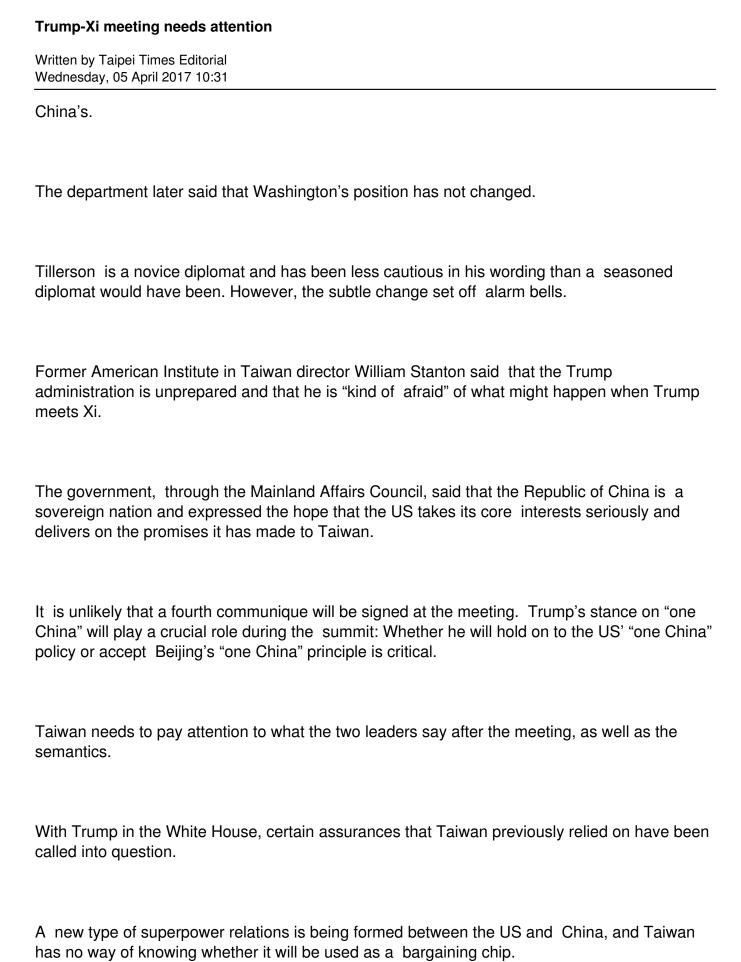
The US policy on Taiwan and China is based the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) and the Three Communiques.

Washington has agreed to acknowledge, though not recognize, "one China" and promulgated the TRA to maintain relations with Taiwan.

However, Trump has not been following the long-standing US policy since his election as US president. His acceptance of a telephone call from President Tsai Ing-wen ([][][]) broke from decades-long precedent observed under the TRA. Trump also questioned the US' "one China" policy and suggested renegotiating trade and exchange rate causing major excitement in Taiwan and concern in China.

Beijing responded to Trump's departure from convention not only with threats and diplomatic pressure, but also by working in the background along official and unofficial channels.

After US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson visited China last month, he released a statement whose wording resembled statements released by Beijing. China regarded this as a diplomatic victory and thought that the US' position had returned to its conventional stance, closer to



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Taiwan must clearly define its role in the new Taiwan-US-China relations, but should not react too negatively, which might rock the boat.

According to Taiwanese national security agencies, the best approach would be to monitor the situation and react in a rational manner.

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