## PRC's ally poaching helps Taiwan

Written by Fan Shih-ping [] [] Sunday, 19 December 2021 07:12

The Straits Forum, the largest non-political platform between Taiwan and China, took place in China's Fujian Province on Sunday last week.

Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Chairman Wang Yang ( $\square$  ) hosted the event, at which Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) Chairman Eric Chu ( $\square$   $\square$  ) gave a prerecorded video speech.

Days before the forum, on Thursday last week, Nicaragua announced that it had severed diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

Although many Taiwanese are unfamiliar with the Central American country, and even fewer have visited it, the breakup led to many feeling even more disgusted by China's sustained diplomatic pressure.

China was certainly the main initiator of the breakup.

Beijing has attempted to retaliate against not only Lithuania for allowing Taipei to set up a representative office bearing the name "Taiwan" in Vilnius, but also Slovakia for sending a large delegation led by Slovak Second State Secretary of the Ministry of Economy Karol Galek to Taiwan earlier this month.

Taiwan-friendly remarks by former Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe last week and the announcement of a US-led diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Winter Olympics added fuel to the fire.

More importantly, Nicaragua cut diplomatic ties while Washington was hosting the two-day Summit for Democracy, to which Taiwan was invited, but China was not.

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Why is Nicaragua so important to China that it established diplomatic ties with Managua on the same day as the breakup with Taiwan? Why did Beijing do so three days before the Straits Forum?

Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi ([][]), who formerly headed China's Taiwan Affairs Office (TAO), must have been aware that the establishment of ties with Nicaragua would anger Taiwan.

Would the move pose a dilemma for those Taiwanese who intended to participate in the forum, as they would even more certainly be vilified by the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) government as pro-China and anti-Taiwan?

With its chairman participating, should the KMT not have used the forum to protest the Taiwan-Nicaragua breakup?

Was the Chinese foreign minister's Nicaragua initiative causing trouble for the TAO, the forum's organizer?

Wang Yi might have done so on purpose — to humiliate TAO Minister Liu Jieyi (□□□), who is a former Chinese ambassador to the UN.

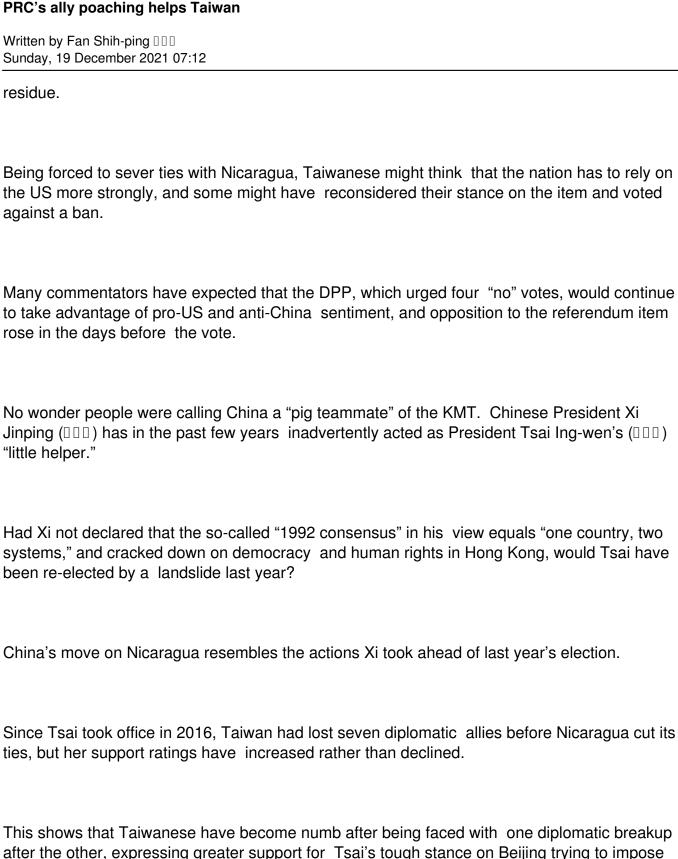
KMT Vice Chairman Andrew Hsia (□□□) also participated in the forum. Despite him serving as Mainland Affairs Council minister in former president Ma Ying-jeou's (□□□) administration, Hsia also failed to protest against the Taiwan-Nicaragua breakup, and allowed the Chinese delegates to virtually trample him.

How could he endure that?

The KMT campaigned for "yes" votes on all four of yesterday's referendum questions, especially on the initially popular item that urges a ban on pork imports containing ractopamine

its brutal hegemonic designs.

more supportive of Taiwan.



Although China's move on Nicaragua was successful, it has made the international community

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China's violent knee-jerk reaction is another point in case of Beijing's "wolf warrior" diplomacy.

While Tsai's ratings keep rising, Taiwan's international visibility is also increasing significantly. Although Xi's move tried to frustrate her momentum, it did not lead to its intended effect, just like it did not in seven previous cases.

Why did China attempt the same move an eighth time? It seems that there is something wrong with the Chinese communist system.

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Translated by Eddy Chang

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