

## Activists promise to follow negotiator

Written by Taipei Times

Friday, 17 December 2010 09:57 -

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A group of Taiwanese independence advocates yesterday vowed to follow China's top negotiator "every step of the way" when he visits Taiwan next week to show their anger in a series of protests.

China's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait Chen Yunlin Chairman (陳雲林) is scheduled to arrive in Taipei on Monday for the sixth round of talks since 2008.

"We will follow him every step of the way," said Chien Sheng-che (陳勝哲) from "Taiwan Republic," one of 10 organizations pledging to take part in the demonstrations.

"We want to show him that Taiwan is Taiwan, and China is China. They are two separate countries," he said.

On Wednesday, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) said it has no plans to mobilize supporters to protest during Chen's visit.

"But we'll keep a close eye on what agreements are signed, to make sure that no national interest is betrayed," DPP spokesman Cheng Wen-tsang (鄭文堂) said.

No police officials were immediately available to comment on the number of officers to be deployed for the coming negotiations.

When Chen visited Taiwan in November 2008, he was confined to his hotel for much of the trip because of street demonstrations outside.

Chen is scheduled to hold talks with his Taiwanese counterpart, Straits Exchange Foundation Chairman Chiang Pin-kung (蔣經國), on Tuesday and depart the following day.

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At the center of the talks will be epidemic control measures and joint research and development of medicines, herbal medicines and emergency treatment.

Source: [Taipei Times - 2010/12/17](#)