Government not to pursue seat at UN

Written by Taipei Times Friday, 19 August 2016 07:58 -

The government will not pursue UN membership and will instead continue to push for the nation's meaningful participation at UN-related agencies, Minister of Foreign Affairs David Lee (□□□) said yesterday.

"With regard to the UN issue, the government will undoubtedly continue our meaningful participation [at UN-related organizations], but will not promote Taiwanese membership in the global body," Lee said.

He made the remarks one day after Taiwan UN Alliance president Michael Tsai $(\square \square \square)$ reportedly visited him to urge President Tsai Ing-wen's $(\square \square \square)$ administration to "toughen up and honor more than 80 percent of the public's demand" that the government should strive to join the UN.

Michael Tsai reportedly told Lee that the government should refrain from constantly making compromises because of the "China factor," as Beijing would only take more actions detrimental to Taipei.

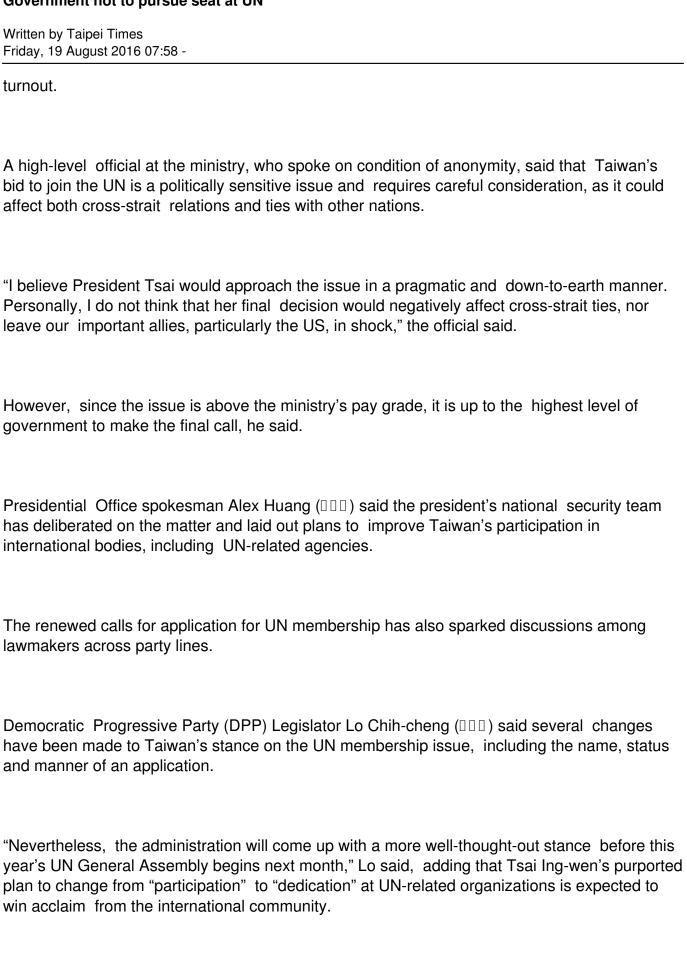
Lin made a similar comment at a meeting of the legislature's Foreign Affairs and National Defense Committee on June 8, amid reports that the government was interested in applying for UN membership.

The Republic of China (ROC), one of the founding members of the UN, exited the global body in 1971 when a UN resolution ruled that the People's Republic of China was the only legitimate representative of China to it.

There have been periodic calls for the nation to join the UN under the name "Taiwan" or rejoin the body as the "ROC."

Two referendums on seeking UN membership were held in March 2008, shortly after former president Chen Shui-bian (\$\Bar{\pi}\$) left office, but both failed to meet the required 50 percent voter

Government not to pursue seat at UN



DPP Legislator Gao Jyh-peng ([] []) said that as the ROC flag cannot represent the nation in

Government not to pursue seat at UN

Written by Taipei Times Friday, 19 August 2016 07:58 -

the international arena, the government should change both the official title and national flag.

Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) Legislator Johnny Chiang (□□□) said that as the public had witnessed the dismal outcomes of Chen's UN endeavors, Tsai Ing-wen should introduce supplementary measures rather than simply "heating leftover rice."

New Power Party caucus convener Hsu Yung-ming (□□□) said that in light of an ongoing discussion in the international community that the appellation "Chinese Taipei" — under which the national team is competing at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro and other sports events — can no longer represent Taiwan, the party would throw its support behind any bids for membership at the UN or the International Olympic Committee as "Taiwan."

Source: Taipei Times - 2016/08/19