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MADN-SOC

05 November 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR SCUSA 73

SUBJECT: America-China Rivalry and Competition

1. **Issue:** The purpose of this memorandum is to propose policy options for the United States to consider in light of Chinese influence and aggression in the global community.
2. **Strategic Analysis:** Most recently during the 20th Party congress, General Secretary Xi Jinping has stated that he wants to solve several major issues within the tenure of his leadership. Expansion rhetoric in this address stands as a challenge to peace in the Indo-Pacific Region and the international rules-based order. Chinese strategy relies on subversive influence in disinformation, social media control, economic and technological isolation, electoral meddling with selective diplomacy, and preparing for a rapid multi domain invasion of Taiwan concurrent with a naval and communications blockade.
3. **Relevant National Interests:** Ensuring that U.S. positions are maintained on all global dimensions, a key focus has to be played on revealing Chinese activities through the acknowledgement of the negative repercussions of the BRI and the revival of the US Dollar in key countries. Furthermore, the successful invasion of Taiwan by China would heavily reduce the United States creditably across the international community.
4. **Strategic Options:**
 - a. The U.S. should take steps to reduce the political isolation of Taiwan by China's effective economic interdependence with Southeast Asia. To achieve this end, the U.S. should increase its diplomatic engagement with ASEAN to build deeper ties of cooperation with the region and emphasize the important role of Southeast Asian states in shaping regional norms and legitimacy.
 - b. If the timeline for invasion of Taiwan is truly within five years as Xi Jinping implied, the United States should expand cooperation, training, and information sharing between The Quad member states, and increase training and defense cooperation with Taiwan.
 - c. U.S. companies need to diversify their trading partners in the Indo-Pacific, thus succeeding in delinking the bulk of our nation's exports and trade from mainland China.
 - d. Support allied nations in the Indo-Pacific to remain a top priority for all economic relations. In the case of rising tensions in the Taiwan Strait, quotas, tariffs, and sanctions have to be placed on the provoking nation.

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5. **Recommendation:** The United States must change its perception of China from a mere competitor to an adversary. China has persistently worked to undermine U.S. national security through information warfare, economic interdependence, and a constant threat of invading Taiwan. With this new perception of China as an adversary, The United States must ensure that the overall influence of China is reduced in the near future.¹
6. **Implementation:** Creating a task of members of the Office of Financial Markets (OFM), U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, and U.S. Department of Defense to locate assets in the U.S. and allied nations that could be frozen in case of Chinese invasion of Taiwan. Moreover, we encourage a meeting between U.S. representatives and those of the countries of the first island chain to propose U.S. support mechanisms within the next 4 months.
7. The point of contact for this memorandum is CDT Parker Wilson at parker.wilson@westpoint.edu or 785-341-9274.

China Roundtable
SCUSA 73
United States Military Academy

¹ Dissenting remark: “Adversarial rhetoric and protectionist measures by the U.S. may exacerbate conflict with China and accelerate the timeline of the invasion of Taiwan.