

HOLIDAYNATION

Envoy: Foster 2-way understanding

‘Any decoupling would be disastrous,’ Chinese ambassador to US warns

By ZHAO HUANXIN in Washington
huanxinzhao@chinadailyusa.com

China and the United States should build on the achievements made since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1979 and continue to broaden cooperation, Beijing's top envoy to Washington said on Wednesday.

To build a China-US relationship based on coordination, cooperation and stability, as agreed by their top leaders in Argentina in December, the two countries should ramp up mutual understanding to avoid strategic miscalculations, stay open to each other rather than decouple and step up people-to-people exchanges, said Cui Tiankai, Chinese ambassador to the US.

Speaking at a reception at the embassy marking the 40th anniversary of China-US diplomatic relations and the Chinese New Year, Cui said the world is undergoing profound changes, with new global challenges continuing to arise.

“More than ever before, the world needs China and the US to work together. Our people need us to work

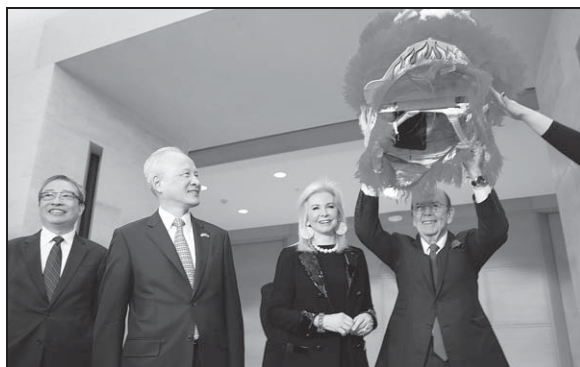
together,” he said. “As our common interests grow, we should continue to expand and deepen our cooperation on the basis of the achievements of the last four decades.”

He said the past 40 years of China-US relations have helped advance the development of the two countries, which have interacted on such an extensive scale and influenced each other in so many ways that each is stronger and better for it.

Such relations have delivered “enormous benefits” to the people in both countries, Cui said, listing a series of figures to illustrate his point.

For example, he said, daily bilateral trade is worth more than \$1.5 billion, and more than 14,000 people fly between the two countries every day for work, study or leisure. In addition, there are 222 pairs of sister cities in the two countries, and 50 pairs of US states and Chinese provinces.

“People in China have always had a strong interest in learning more about America and from America,” Cui said, adding that a great need exists to promote mutual understanding to enhance mutual trust



Chinese Ambassador to the US Cui Tiankai (second from left) and US Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross (right) at the reception marking the 40th anniversary of China-US diplomatic relations and the Chinese New Year. ZHAO HUANXIN / CHINA DAILY

and avoid strategic miscalculations.

Learning more about China's history — the hardships suffered by its people and the strenuous effort required to get where they are — would help people understand the country's goals and intentions and what the Chinese Dream means, Cui said. “Then it would not be difficult to understand that the Chinese people have every right to pursue a better life, but they will never do it at the expense of other nations.”

He added that the world's two largest economies need to stay open to each other and get more connected, as each has its own strengths that complement the other.

“There may always be differences between us, but they should be addressed on the basis of mutual respect and mutual benefit,” he said. “Any so-called decoupling would be disastrous for both economies and the world economy at large.”

The China-US friendship, which

is deeply rooted in people, has helped overcome various twists and turns in relations over the past four decades, Cui said, adding that the two governments should make greater efforts to encourage stronger ties between students, teachers, scientists, artists, athletes and others.

Carlos Gutierrez, former US secretary of commerce, said of decoupling: “It's almost impossible. We are so integrated that to think of a world where China is on its own and the US is on its own, I can't conceive that.”

Gutierrez noted that trade disputes are bad for both sides. “So I would hope that we have reached the limit in terms of escalation, and that we can continue the dialogue to reach an agreement.”

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said earlier on Wednesday that he and other US officials will travel to Beijing next week for trade talks, following up on discussions last month in Washington.

Carol Miller, who was elected to the US House of Representatives in January by her district in West Virginia, said at the Chinese embassy reception, “I'm very hopeful that our great countries will come together and work things out. I think we have much to gain being friends and having good relationships.”

No signs of HIV in immunity booster

Samples of an immunity-boosting blood product that were suspected of being contaminated by HIV have been found to be free of the virus through nucleic acid tests, China's top drug watchdog announced on Thursday.

The product — immunoglobulin — is extracted from human blood plasma for intravenous injection into a patient to boost the person's immunity.

Earlier, on Tuesday, the National Health Commission told the National Medical Products Administration that HIV antibodies had been found in a batch of human immunoglobulin produced by Shanghai-based China Meheco Xinxing Pharma Co. The presence of the antibody suggests the presence of HIV.

Normally, the body's immune system makes enough antibodies to fight off organisms that cause infections. But in cases of immune deficiency, the body can't make enough of them, putting such patients at greater risk of infection. Intravenous injection of immunoglobulin treatment provides antibodies that a patient's body is not making on its own.

“Although the nucleic acid (NAT) test is negative, it doesn't conflict with the antibody-positive test result, as the two tests are not the same.”

Wang Yuedan, a professor of immunology at Peking University

A batch of human immunoglobulin produced by Meheco was found positive for the HIV antibody based on checks in Jiangxi province. It was not clear how the immunoglobulin became tainted.

The administration sent teams to Shanghai and Jiangxi and ordered its Shanghai bureau to launch site inspections and conduct tests on the immunoglobulin supply.

The nucleic acid (NAT) tests for HIV, HBV and HCV all came back negative, the administration said in a statement on Thursday. The NAT results for HIV patients in Jiangxi were also negative, it said.

The products in question have been sealed and medical institutions nationwide have been ordered not to use them.

The company has been ordered to suspend production, and an emergency recall was issued pending the outcome of the investigation. All related products of the company have been seized and samples have been sent for inspection, according to a statement by the Shanghai Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday.

Wang Yuedan, a professor of immunology at Peking University, told Science and Technology Daily that the negative results are good news as they suggest a low risk of spreading HIV.

“Although the nucleic acid (NAT) test is negative, it doesn't conflict with the antibody-positive test result, as the two tests are not the same,” he was quoted by the paper as saying on Friday.

Nucleic acid is the genetic material of the HIV, so its being negative shows the product may not be contaminated genetically, Wang said.

The National Health Commission, citing health experts, said people who have used the immunoglobulin have a “very low” risk of contracting AIDS.

The commission said it has formulated a follow-up monitoring program for patients who had received injections and is providing guidance to local authorities regarding follow-up observations of patients.

People's Daily commented on Wednesday that a thorough investigation should be conducted to respond to public concerns and the problems should be handled in accordance with the law.

CHINA DAILY — XINHUA

Huawei VP calls comment by US official ‘senseless’

BRUSSELS — A senior representative of Chinese tech company Huawei lashed out at Gordon Sondland, United States ambassador to the European Union, in one of the strongest public remarks ever by the company against fearmongering.

In a ballroom in Brussels, Belgium, on Thursday, with more than 100 guests, mostly Europeans, Abraham Liu, Huawei's vice-president for the European region and chief representative to the EU institutions, launched into a robust defense of the technology giant.

“Recently, Huawei has been under constant attack by some countries and politicians. We are shocked, or sometimes feel amused, by those ungrounded and senseless allegations,” he said.

“For example, yesterday, the US ambassador to the European Union, Mr Sondland, said someone in Beijing could remotely run a certain car off the road on a 5G network and kill the person that's in it. This is an insult to people's intelligence, let alone the technological experts around the world,” Liu said.

“Excluding Huawei from the market doesn't mean the network is safe. For example, since Huawei's equipment is not used in US networks, does the US have the most

secure network? The answer is no.”

Huawei has an excellent cybersecurity record, Liu said, with its devices being approved by strict reviews by multiple regulators and operators. Its partners in Europe include big-name telecom operators, including Deutsche Telekom, British Telecom, Vodafone, Orange, Proximus and others. These partners “have publicly endorsed their trust in Huawei,” he said. “I applaud these sensible approaches.”

“Cybersecurity should remain a technical issue, instead of an ideological issue, because technical issues can always be resolved through the right solutions. Ideological issues cannot,” he said.

Certain Western governments and media outlets have consistently cast doubt on Huawei's ownership and governance. Liu reiterated that “Huawei is a 100 percent employee-owned private enterprise,” adding that “if we want commercial success, we must follow our own business ethics. We have never harmed the interests of any customer or nation.”

“For Huawei, Europe has become our second home,” he said. “Our success is Europe's success. Our loss would be Europe's loss.”

XINHUA

Vietnam: Pragmatic steps may be summit highlight

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the decision and vowed to make the meeting a success, according to media reports.

“Vietnam strongly supports dialogue to maintain peace, security and stability on the Korean Peninsula,” Le Thi Thu Hang, spokeswoman for the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said on Wednesday.

“Vietnam is ready to make active contributions to and cooperate with relevant sides to ensure success for the second US-DPRK summit, thus helping realize the above-mentioned goal,” she added.

Trump and Kim met for the first time in Singapore in June. Despite the hype of the landmark first summit, the one-day meeting produced only a vague declaration about a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula without describing when and how it would occur.

They signed a joint four-point document, which included a commitment to “complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula” and “security guarantees” from the United States, but implementation of the agreements reached at the historic meeting has been slow.

Li Nan, an associate research fellow of the Institute of American Studies at the Chinese Academy of

Social Sciences, said discussions between the DPRK and the US on pragmatic ways to denuclearize would be the most noteworthy part of the second summit.

Kim and Trump could reach a deal concerning denuclearization, and might even discuss specific steps toward getting rid of weapons, Li said.

Though the DPRK has said it is committed to the hard work of “complete denuclearization” on the peninsula, Pyongyang still insists on “step-by-step” denuclearization, which Li said is in contradiction to Washington's proposition that challenges the DPRK to solve the problem once and for all. Li said step-by-step denuclearization is a bottom line issue for Pyongyang, and it will be difficult for the two sides to reach an agreement on this point at the summit.

Koh Yu-hwan, a Korean Peninsula expert at Seoul's Dongguk University, told the Associated Press that a potential deal could be reached at the summit through Pyongyang agreeing to dismantle key parts of its Nyongbyon nuclear complex, freeze its nuclear program and allow inspectors in, in exchange for the United States granting exemptions to sanctions for inter-Korean transactions.

Winter blossoms



Tourists look at blossoming winter plums in Taizhou, Jiangsu province, after a snowfall on Friday. Snow and sleet are likely to hit central and eastern China over the next three days as cold temperatures combine with a southwesterly warm moist airflow, according to China's meteorological authority.

TANG DEHONG / FOR CHINA DAILY

FROM THE FRONT LINE

Care for elderly provides path to success

By CAO CHEN in Shanghai
caochen@chinadaily.com.cn

Shu Jilan from Wuchuan Gelao and Miao autonomous county in northeastern Guizhou province has become a professional assistant for elderly people after six months of training and an internship, plus one year of work experience in Shanghai.

The 35-year-old, who works at the Fuyu Nursing station in Shanghai's Hongkou district, can expertly and gently transfer an elderly person in and out of bed — one hand around the waist and the other holding the legs.

She helps with daily tasks, such as preparing meals, bathing and arranging medical appointments, and she is qualified for emergency nursing, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other first-aid assistance.

Whether the assignment is big or small, Shu can handle it.

“I've obtained practical skills through my training, including practice at nursing homes in Shanghai,” Shu said.

“For example, I know that sticky glutinous rice is not digestible for most seniors. So *tangyuan*, a Chinese dessert made from glutinous rice flour and water, is not provided at nursing homes,” she said. “Instead, porridge and dumplings are preferred for seniors.”

Knowing each senior's personality and health status also facilitates communication and professional care, she added.

Shu's work was praised by elderly residents at another nursing home where she worked. They

called her “a kind, patient and attentive caregiver.”

Significantly, she has lifted her family back in Guizhou out of poverty through her monthly salary of more than 10,000 yuan (\$1,500).

Shu's success is the result of a training program for caregiving skills launched by the Shanghai government in 2017 for women in Guizhou. They are also assisted in finding employment.

The program is a response to a pledge by the Ministry of Commerce in 2017 to lift 500,000 people from 10,000 villages out of poverty within three years. It aims to train people to work in 100 cities that urgently need domestic helpers.

Shanghai, a pilot city in the initiative, has taken the effort to 33 poverty-stricken areas in provinces such as Guizhou and Gansu.

“I never pictured myself living in Shanghai before,” said Shu, who once worked in a factory in Guangdong province with her husband.

Four years ago, her husband was diagnosed with diabetes and needed long-term medical treatment. Her troubles were deepened by the death of her elder brother, whose three children were left for Shu and her parents to care for. Shu also has two children of her own. The family fell into extreme poverty.

But things started to get better in late 2017, when Shu went to Shanghai as one of the first 13 people from Guizhou to join the poverty alleviation program.

She completed her caregiving training, as well as an internship with the Shanghai Fuyu Housekeeping Service Co, which is responsible for poverty alleviation



Shu Jilan with an elderly woman in Shanghai. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

in Guizhou province and has trained around 600 caregivers from the area.

Shu earned 4,500 yuan per month during her internship in the city, 50 percent more than what she earned as a worker in Guangdong. Now her income has more than doubled. She sends most of the money back to Guizhou.

“I love the work here, which supports my family. The program is also impressive and delightful, as it offers a window to the development of Shanghai,” she says. “The elderly at nursing homes are my friends and they give advice on the problems I meet in life.”

Before heading back to Guizhou for the Spring Festival holiday, Shu's mind was filled with thoughts of family.

“I miss my family and I look forward to offering them professional home care after a whole year of long-distance separation,” she said.