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LETTER DATED 23 DECEMBER 1988 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
CHINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the statement made by the
spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of China dated 19 December 1988.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the full text of the
attached statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) LI Luye
Permanent Representative of China
to the United Nations

Annex

STATEMENT DATED 19 DECEMBER 1988 BY THE SPOKESMAN OF THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY OF CHINA ON THE SO-CALLED "ELASTIC DIPLOMACY" PURSUED
BY TAIWAN AUTHORITIES

Recently, some people of the Taiwan authorities have made one statement after another indicating that the Taiwan authorities would pursue the so-called "elastic diplomacy" with redoubled efforts and openly stated that they would develop "official relations" with some countries having diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. Among other things, the Taiwan authorities would set up the so-called "commercial office of the Republic of China", upgrade some unofficial organizations to "consulates-general" and even establish or restore "diplomatic relations" with these countries. They have also tried hard to return to intergovernmental international organizations in an attempt to create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan". Their above-mentioned moves cannot but arouse grave concern.

The spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry is hereby authorized to make the following statement:

It has long been recognized by the international community that the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the Chinese territory. In international relations, the Chinese Government has persistently stood for the development of friendly relations and co-operation with all other countries on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence and opposed the establishment of official ties or contacts of an official nature with Taiwan by countries having diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. We have never taken objection to their economic, trade and cultural exchanges of an entirely unofficial nature. This position of ours has commanded the respect of countries across the world. China is further developing and deepening its friendly relations with other countries. We deeply appreciate the efforts of the overwhelming majority of countries to abide strictly by the agreements or understanding reached on the Taiwan question when they established diplomatic relations with China and their refusal to establish official relations or contacts of an official nature with Taiwan. It is our belief that the Taiwan authorities will not succeed in pushing their "elastic diplomacy".

The Chinese Government has consistently opposed any attempt to create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan" in international organizations. This just and clear-cut position has won the full understanding and support of the Governments of other countries. Back in 1971, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution which restored the legitimate seat to the People's Republic of China in this world body. Accordingly, the United Nations has expelled Taiwan from all its organizations, and the offices of organizations of the United Nations system must not have any dealings with Taiwan. This principle also applies to other intergovernmental international organizations. As for individual intergovernmental international organizations, for instance the Asian Development Bank, the Taiwan

authorities are allowed to join it in the name of "Taipei, China", subject to agreement reached through consultations between the Chinese Government and the international organization concerned. This is only a kind of special arrangement and cannot be regarded as a model universally applicable to other intergovernmental international organizations.

It should be pointed out that the Taiwan authorities, while doing their utmost to push the so-called "elastic diplomacy", are actually trying to create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan". This not only runs counter to their repeatedly claimed position of "only one China", but also goes against the aspirations of all Chinese both at home and abroad who are concerned about China's reunification. We hope that the Taiwan authorities will get a clear understanding of the situation and, bearing in mind the overall interests of the Chinese nation, stop activities detrimental to China's reunification in line with the trend of the times and popular will and join us in the endeavour for the peaceful reunification of China. Only by so doing can Taiwan enjoy, along with the mainland, the dignity and status of our great motherland.
