

Taiwan receives usies 40 largest delegation

CE Noticias Financieras English

August 9, 2020 Sunday

Copyright 2020 Content Engine, LLC.

All Rights Reserved

Copyright 2020 CE Noticias Financieras All Rights Reserved

Length: 449 words

Body

The highest-ranking American political representative to visit Taiwan in four decades has landed on Sunday in Taipei. Alex Azar, secretary of health, heads the most important delegation the U.S. has sent to Taiwan since 1979, when he stopped recognizing the sovereignty of the territory. This is a substantial gesture at a time when the relationship with China is experiencing unprecedented confrontation.

During his stay, Azar will hold meetings with the president, Tsai Ing-wen, and foreign minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu, who has highlighted the visit as "testimony to mutual trust and fluid dialogue between the United States and Taiwan (...). Both governments will continue to constantly improve this cooperative partnership globally to safeguard the values of democracy, freedom and human rights."

The Secretary of Health will also depart with his Taiwanese counterpart, Chen Shih-chung, as the pandemic will be one of the main issues on the agenda. "This trip represents recognition of Taiwan's success in the fight against covid-19," said a senior U.S. official in statements collected by the AFP agency. Despite its geographical proximity and ties to mainland China, Taiwan has always kept the virus under control, registering just seven fatalities and fewer than 500 infected to date.

The visit has caused irritation from the Chinese government. Wang Wenbin, spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, questioned the journey as "a threat to peace." The U.S. Department of Health, for its part, said the trip has "the president's support for the territory's global leadership in health issues."

Taiwan is the point where everything could jump in the air. China has never forcibly renounced unification of what it considers a rebellious province, while U.S. law forces the country to defend the island from a hypothetical continental invasion. It is the "most sensitive issue in Chinese-American relations," as Wang acknowledged.

This entourage represents the latest move in an escalation of hostilities, which in recent days has led the US administration to impose a veto against popular WeChat and TikTok telephone applications and to sanction 11 senior Hong Kong officials for undermining the sovereignty of the territory. The previous week, the two countries ordered the respective closure of a third-party consulate: the U.S. consulate in Chengdu for China's in Houston.

The next chance for provocation may not be far away. A state funeral by former President Lee Teng-hui, considered the father of his democracy, will take place in Taiwan in the coming days. The position the U.S. chooses on behalf of the country will indicate the extent to which Taiwan can become the center of a growing enmity.

Load-Date: August 10, 2020