

China warns Washington against attempts to force it to drop US stock exchanges

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Body

"The respective statements by the United States and its attitude toward China are political manipulations, an attempt to force Chinese companies to withdraw their shares from US stock market listings, which would seriously harm the interests of American investors," said Chinese Chancellery spokesman Wang Wenbin.

The Wall Street Journal had published, citing representatives of the Treasury Department and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, that the Trump Administration drew up a plan that forces Chinese companies to accept audit rules. And if they don't, they should withdraw from American stock exchanges.

Under the plan, Chinese firms whose securities are already listed on the New York Stock Exchange or the Nasdaq Stock Exchange are required to meet the requirement by 2022.

The spokesman for the Chinese Chancellery said he hoped that the US will show sense in solving this problem, approve the practice already recognized worldwide, eliminate discrepancies by holding honest consultations, and defend the interests of investors.

The US began a trade war against China in June 2018 by raising tariffs on China's products under the pretext of balancing a negative trade balance.

Last January, the two countries signed the first part of a trade agreement called Phase One that suspended the trade war.

Arms sales to Taiwan

In addition, the Foreign Ministry's spokesman indicated that China called on the United States to cease arms sales to Taiwan, as well as joint military maneuvers with Taiwan to not prejudice Chinese-American relations.

US Defense Minister Mark Esper said earlier that Washington will continue to sell arms to Taiwan and will also conduct operations "to maintain freedom of navigation, including operations in the Taiwan Strait."

"China calls on the US to (...) stop the sale of arms to Taiwan and any contact between the US Army and Taiwan to avoid serious damage to Chinese-American relations, as well as peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait," Wang said.

He noted that Beijing called on Washington to respect the "one China" principle and the provisions of the three joint communiqués.

The spokesman added that Taiwan's issue relates to China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and the country's most important interests, noting that "China stands firm in defending its sovereignty and security."

On July 14, China decided to impose sanctions against the US company Lockheed Martin, which is the main contractor for the sale of military equipment to Taiwan.

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The U.S. State Department previously approved the possible sale to Taiwan of equipment for the modernization of Patriot systems for a total mount of \$620 million.

Official relations between Beijing and Taipei were suspended in 1949, after forces of the Chinese nationalist party Kuomintang, led by Chiang Kai-shek, suffered a defeat in the civil war against the Communist Party of China and moved to Taiwan. The links between the two Chinese territories were only restored at the business and informal level in the late 1980s, with no official contacts today.

TheEntry China warns Washington against attempts to force it to abandon US exchanges was first published in Diario La República.

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