

Implications of US Senior Officials' Asia and Europe Trips: Taiwan's Perspectives

Press Availability

Date: Wednesday, 7th April, 2021

Time: 10:30-12:00

Location: 3rd Floor, Conference Room B, National Taiwan University Alumni Building (No. 2-1, Sec.1 Jinan Rd., Zhongzheng Dist., Taipei City)

Language: English

Time	Agenda
10:30-10:35	Opening Remarks Dr. Tan-Sun Chen Chairman, The Prospect Foundation
10:35-11:20	<u>Moderator</u> Dr. I-Chung Lai President, The Prospect Foundation
	<u>Panelists</u> Dr. Cheng-Fung Lu Associate Professor, Department of International and Mainland China Affairs, National Quemoy University Dr. Liang-Chih Evans Chen Associate Research Fellow, Division of Defense Strategy and Resources, Institute for National Defense and Security Research
11:20-12:00	Q & A

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US Secretary of State Antony Blinken took office in February and gave his first major foreign policy speech on March 3, where he laid out his vision for US foreign policy and named China and Russia as problems to be addressed. Blinken promised that the US will engage more with the rest of the world.

In light of this, Blinken and US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin met with their counterparts in Tokyo for a series of bilateral talks and a joint "2+2" session, marking the first international trip by Biden Cabinet officials. Then they arrived South Korea to meet their counterparts in Seoul and having another "2+2" session. After the Asia trip, Austin began a visit to India and Blinken visited NATO.

During their trip in Japan, Japanese and U.S. defence chiefs agreed in their meeting to closely cooperate in the event of a military clash between China and Taiwan. The ministers also raised human rights issues in Hong Kong and Xinjiang. Austin's visit in India underscores the importance that U.S. President Joe Biden accords to India, especially to its defense relationship with the United States. Blinken in NATO pledged to revitalise the transatlantic military alliance. Also, the Atlantic allies plan to convene dialogue to address China Challenges.

The US under Biden administration emphasizes the notion of standing together with allies in the face of a more assertive China and Russia. Will these allies in Europe and Asia take further concrete steps to work with US? Or are these statements only toothless words?

The Prospect Foundation will hold a seminar to discuss the implications of US senior officials' Asia and Europe trips. You are welcomed to join the seminar which will include distinguished scholars providing observations from Taiwan's perspective. We look forward to seeing you.



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