



## TRIP SUMMARY

A delegation of seventeen members of the Committee of 100 recently concluded a trip to Beijing, Hong Kong, and Taipei to meet with government officials and community leaders to discuss their views on US-China relations, Cross-Strait relations, and other issues of recent concern in Greater China. Particularly noteworthy meetings are highlighted below, although the Committee of 100 delegation also met with several other influential individuals.

As context, Committee of 100's Greater China trip took place one month after Legislative Yuan elections in Taipei in which the KMT-dominated Pan-Blue camp defeated the DPP-dominated, pro-independence Pan-Green camp by a narrow margin. Roughly one week later, China's National People's Congress announced "Anti-Secession" legislation that Beijing claimed was necessary to forestall Taiwanese independence and "protect national sovereignty." The full text of the bill was released on March 14, 2005 (see website [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2005-03/14/content\\_2694180.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2005-03/14/content_2694180.htm))

The consensus that emerged from Committee of 100's delegation to Taiwan was that the most promising ways to reduce Cross Strait tension were Beijing's adoption of generous, confidence building measures such as allowing Taipei more breathing room on the global stage.

Finally, at the time of the trip, negotiations for charter flights between China and Taiwan during the 2005 Lunar New Year were underway and nearing completion. Officials on both sides of the Strait held out hope that these flights would provide a breakthrough to the tension that characterized Cross Strait relations during the last months of 2004.

During each meeting in both Taipei and Beijing, Committee of 100 affirmed its support of the US government's One China policy and exhorted both sides to work towards a peaceful settlement of the Cross Strait issue. Furthermore, Phase I results of C100's "American Attitudes Toward China" were announced at the Committee's First Greater China Conference in Hong Kong.

Finally, Committee of 100 repeatedly pointed out that "Taiwanese people perceive only the stick, and not the carrot" and recommended that China do more to win the hearts and minds of the Taiwanese public as an important step in resolving the cross strait impasse.