



**Follow-up to PacNet 33,  
"China's Taiwan Policy: Still Listening and Watching"**  
by Bonnie S. Glaser

*PacNet readers will be interested in the following exchange, the publication of which has been regrettably delayed by recent events.*

**Letter to CSIS President John Hamre from  
Lin Fong-cheng, secretary general, KMT party**

As secretary general of the KMT party, I would like to make a few clarifications to the Pacific Forum CSIS PacNet Newsletter #33, by Bonnie S. Glaser, concerning the KMT position on cross-Taiwan Strait dialogue.

Ms. Glaser quoted some unnamed Chinese analysts saying that KMT delegations visiting China in the past year have urged Beijing to avoid opening a dialogue with the DPP government, and to insult President Chen Shui-bian personally so as to weaken his domestic reputation. Although Ms. Glaser might have her sources in Beijing whose freedom of speech we respect, she could have done better if she had double-checked with facts and treated her sources with caution.

KMT's delegations to China in the past year have never preached any of the ideas that Ms. Glaser quoted. On the contrary, the KMT believed that the prolonged lack of dialogue has worked to the great disadvantage of the people on both sides of the Strait. Hence it has made every effort to facilitate its reopening. It calls on the Chen administration to accept the "92 consensus." Meanwhile it urges Beijing to respect Taiwan's democratization.

It is also untrue that we ask for Beijing's help to mock President Chen. Despite all differences and political competition, the KMT party respects him as head of this country.

Therefore, I would like to call your urgent attention to Ms. Glaser's misrepresentations of the KMT party, and hope that you will be kind enough to publicize my letter in your newsletter, so as to prevent further misunderstanding of the KMT.

**Response by Dr. Hamre**

Thank you for your letter dated Aug. 21, 2001, concerning Bonnie Glaser's recent PacNet Newsletter article on cross-Strait relations.

I understand the sensitivity in Taiwan concerning issues related to cross-Strait affairs. I also recognize the concerns you and your party have over the substance of Ms. Glaser's piece. As clearly indicated in the article, Ms. Glaser was merely reporting what she

had been told, which affirmed what other visitors to Beijing had been hearing from PRC interlocutors. We recognize that what she heard may not be the entire story, but we are confident of the veracity and integrity of her representation.

As you request, we will publish and distribute your letter to me in a forthcoming installment of the PacNet Newsletter to provide you equal time to comment on Ms. Glaser's article. Our comments on Ms. Glaser's work will accompany your letter.

Thank you again for your letter. CSIS values its close, long-term relationship with Taiwan and the KMT over many years, and looks forward to continuing its work to promote peace and stability across the Strait in the future.

**Ms. Glaser's comments:**

My article encapsulated the views that were conveyed to me by Chinese institute analysts and officials during a July visit to Beijing. I regret that the Taiwan press reported on only one or two sentences from my article, thus distorting its meaning. If you read the entire article, you can appreciate that it concerns the mainland's policy toward Taiwan, not the KMT position on cross-Taiwan Strait dialogue. I also did not suggest that the KMT asked for Beijing's help to mock or insult President Chen Shui-bian personally.

In my article, I attempted to provide an objective and comprehensive analysis of Chinese perspectives on and policy toward Taiwan. I believe that it is essential to understand and analyze the perspectives on both sides of the Strait. I did not intend to criticize KMT policy or corroborate the information that I was told by mainland Chinese. I was merely reporting what I was told by numerous sources in Beijing. Subsequent to my July trip to the mainland, many other Americans have told me that they too have been informed by Chinese officials and institute analysts that KMT delegations are urging Beijing to not engage in serious dialogue with President Chen. If this is not the case, then the KMT should, of course, refute these charges.

Please note that my article was not part of a larger CSIS study on cross-Strait relations. It is part of my work as an individual scholar and a consultant on Asian affairs. It was posted on the CSIS Web page because I submitted it as a "PacNet" to the Pacific Forum CSIS, which is located in Hawaii.

As an American scholar of Northeast Asian security matters, I attach great importance to understanding the views of all parties and ultimately, identifying the facts. I do not take a position in support of any particular political party in Taiwan. I appreciate your effort to convey the KMT's policy. I too believe that the resumption of cross-Strait dialogue is in the interests of the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait.