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VOLUME 15 • NO. 4157 • TUESDAY OCTOBER 10, 2023 • PRICE 2 YUAN

人民日报社主管 环球时报社主办 · 出版



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with a visiting US congressional delegation led by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer on October 9, 2023 in Beijing. Photo: Xinhua

► China expects Schumer's visit to fortify guardrails of ties: experts

# Xi meets US senators, stressing stable bilateral ties, cooperation

By Wang Qi

Chinese President Xi Jinping met with a US congressional delegation led by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer in Beijing on Monday, emphasizing the importance of a stable China-US relationship and cooperation, while rejecting the confrontational mentality and the "Thucydides trap" claim.

Chinese experts said the fact that President Xi personally

## XI'S MOMENTS

ally received Schumer and his delegation reflects the great importance China attaches to bilateral relations, and reflects China's expectation that the US political community, through the lawmakers' visit, can gain a deeper, more objective, and rational understanding of China and Beijing's external policy.

Schumer's visit is viewed as

the continuation of momentum following a slew of high-level interactions since US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited China in June, which analysts believed will strengthen the guardrails to prevent bilateral ties from spiraling out of control, and create an atmosphere for a possible meeting of heads of state during the APEC leaders' meeting in November.

More importantly, the Chinese side hoped that the US

side will translate the positive rhetoric during the visit into concrete actions in its China policy, according to experts.

During meeting with Schumer, President Xi underlined that the China-US relationship is the most important bilateral relationship in the world. How China and the US get along will determine the future of humanity.

According to Xi, competition and

## US' one-sided military support for Israel fuels tension: observer

By GT staff reporters

US' one-sided decision to send weapons and warships to Israel after Hamas attack will "further fuel the tension, cause more humanitarian crisis," said Chinese observers, moreover, Washington's wrong-footed response to the surprise attack also mirrored its failed Middle East policies, a result of flip-flopping and indecisiveness, commented the observers.

Repeating its tactic of fanning up the flames as it's doing in the Russia-Ukraine crisis, the US is also pressuring other countries, China included, to condemn Hamas. The US wants to morally abduct China, observers said, adding that the visit of US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer can serve as a window for Washington to learn and understand China's stance on conflicts of the Middle East region.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III said on Sunday he had ordered the aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford and five guided-missile cruisers and destroyers, which are already in the Mediterranean Sea, to the eastern part of the sea, near Israel, as fighting between Israeli forces and Hamas militants raged into a third day after Hamas' surprise attack on Israel.

Hamas on Sunday said by sending a Navy carrier, the US is taking part in "aggression against Palestinian people"

When asked to comment on US sending military equipment to Israel, Mao Ning, spokesperson of Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said at a routine press briefing on Monday that China believes that dialogue and negotiation are the fundamental ways to resolve the issue.

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Address: The Global Times English Edition, 2 Jintai Xilu, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100026 • The Global Times is published six times a week from Monday to Saturday.

News Dept: (8610) 65367574 editor@globaltimes.com.cn • Ads Dept: (8610) 65369595 advertising@globaltimes.com.cn • Subscription Dept: (8610) 65369602 subscription@globaltimes.com.cn • Marketing Dept: (8610) 65367665 marketing@globaltimes.com.cn  
违法和不良信息举报电话: 010-65363263 • 举报邮箱: jubao@people.cn • 地址: 北京市朝阳区金台西路2号环球时报社英文版 • 邮政编码: 100026 • 国内统一连续出版物号: CN 11-0272 • 国际标准刊号: ISSN 2095-2678 • 邮发代号: 1-181

# Visit opportunity for US political circle to understand China's policy

► Xi, from Page 1

confrontation is not consistent with the trend of the times. Still less can it fix one's own problems and address the challenges facing the world. China maintains that the common interests of the two countries far outweigh their differences, and the respective success of China and the US is an opportunity, rather than a challenge, to each other.

The "Thucydides Trap" is not inevitable, and Planet Earth is vast enough to accommodate the respective development and common prosperity of China and the US, Xi said.

As two major countries, China and the US should demonstrate the broadmindedness, vision and readiness to rise to the occasion expected by the international community, and act with a sense of responsibility to history, to the people and to the world, Xi noted.

China gave a high-profile reception to Schumer, a politician considered to be a hawk on China, which shows the great importance Beijing attaches to China-US relations in order to deal with bilateral ties in a positive, pragmatic and rational manner, Diao Daming, a professor at the Renmin University of China, told the Global Times on Monday.

Li Haidong, a professor at the China Foreign Affairs University, told the Global Times that Xi has elaborated on China's principled position on China-US relations in the spirit of being responsible to the people of the two countries and to history.

"This helps Schumer and his delegation to understand China more deeply, and to better understand the

nature of China's internal and external policies," Li said.

Senator Schumer and other members of the delegation expressed their appreciation to the Chinese side for its hospitality. They said that a stable US-China relationship is of vital importance not only to the two countries, but also to world peace and development. China's development and prosperity is good for the American people, they added.

US senators said that the US side does not seek a conflict with China, nor does it seek to decouple from China. The US is willing to enhance dialogue and communication with China in an open and candid manner based on mutual respect, responsibly manage the bilateral relationship, and stabilize and strengthen US-China relations.

The senators' words show that they are satisfied with this trip to China, Li said, "But China hopes that the US can be consistent with its words and deeds, and turn the positive rhetoric during the visit to China into concrete action in the same direction."

## Continuation of momentum

Xi also explained to Schumer the legitimacy, rationality and intrinsic vitality of China's development path and its broad prospects for future development.

It is hoped that the two legislatures will have more interactions, dialogues and exchanges to increase mutual understanding and make a positive contribution to the stabilization and improvement of the China-US relationship, Xi remarked.

Over the past period, no matter how frequent the exchange of visits

between senior officials of the US and Chinese administrations has been, the US Congress has always had China hawks undermining bilateral relations, Diao said.

China hopes that this visit, especially the direct interaction between lawmakers and Beijing, will broaden the channels of communication, and give the Congress a better and more objective perception of China, thus better stabilizing the US-China relationship, Diao noted.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Monday also met with Schumer. Wang expressed hopes of developing healthy bilateral ties, which requires rationally managing differences and forming a more accurate understanding of China for Washington, according to media reports.

Schumer is the latest high-level American politician to visit China, as Washington seeks to ease tensions and promote the head-of-state meeting during November's APEC leaders' meeting in San Francisco.

Meeting with the Chinese leader and top diplomat maintains the momentum of high-level dialogue between China and the US after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's China trip. Regarding Schumer's experience, his meeting with Xi certainly creates a better environment for a possible Xi-Biden meeting in November, Diao said.

More exchanges between the US and China at different levels and sectors will be conducive to creating more solid guardrails that better prevent the US-China relationship from spiraling out of control, ensuring that they do not degenerate into a conflict, Li noted.

# Wrong-footed response of Washington reflects its 'failed Middle East policy'

► US', from Page 1

"We call on all parties to cease fire and stop the war as soon as possible to avoid further escalation and deterioration of the situation," she said.

Chinese observers said partiality is the US' usual practice in dealing with international conflicts, which in the end only fuels tension. "Israel already outweighs Palestine in terms of military might; if the US wants peace, it should take actions to calm down the situation, instead of giving one-sided support to Israel," Tian Wenlin, a research fellow at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, told the Global Times.

Observers of the Middle East said the tension will keep simmering for the following weeks, as the administration of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who leads a right-wing government, will be jeopardized if he does not respond harshly to the most serious attack against Israel in a generation; also, Hamas is unlikely to back down, because the attack is seen as its "last-ditch effort" to disrupt the reconciliation of US-backed Saudi Arabia-Israel normalization.

"At this juncture, mediation is needed more than ever, and US' fueling of the conflict will result in more humanitarian crisis. It may also result in a spillover of the conflict to a wider range," said Tian.

Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, believes US' sending warships is a "symbolic showing of support to Israel" and also aims at deterring Iran, as ground offensive is the usual practice targeting Hamas, who can easily mix with civilians.

"I am afraid sending warships is the only way Washington can come up with at current stage, because it is now flat-footed about how to respond to Hamas' attack and reassert its role in the Middle East," said Liu. The expert said the current US' quandary also mirrored its failed Middle East policies.

The Hamas attack was widely recognized by Chinese observers as a protest to the US' selfish agenda of pushing for normalization between Israel and Arab nations, whilst ignoring Palestinian people's needs. "Washington lacks systematic policies in the Middle East. It intends to cut engagement in the region, but also feared China and Russia will fill up its vacuum; it also wants to assert influence in the Middle East to maintain its hegemony," said Liu, opining that US' current wrong-footed status in the Middle East is a result of such flip-flopping and indecisiveness.

As the conflicts evolve, the US is seeking to force China to take a tougher stance on Hamas. US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer on Monday called on China to support Israel after deadly attacks by Hamas, Reuters reported.

Not only the US tends to take sides in all conflicts, it forces other countries to side with it. It is doing that with the ongoing Russia-Ukraine crisis, and it is doing the same with the current Palestine-Israel conflict, said Sun Degang, director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Fudan University. "It should already learn from the Russia-Ukraine crisis that taking sides is never the way out of a conflict."

The expert said Schumer's remarks have highlighted the urgency for China and the US to discuss Middle East issues, and his visit can serve as golden opportunity for Washington to learn and understand China's stance on conflicts of the Middle East region.

## Indigenous referendum



Australians attend early polls in the central business district on October 09, 2023 in Sydney. A referendum for Australians to decide on an indigenous voice to parliament will be held on October 14, 2023. Photo: VCG