

▶ US awkward position exposes 'deep-rooted flaws of political system'

Israel leaves Biden with few options

By GT staff reporters

Israeli leaders said the army had enough munitions on hand to proceed with its plans in Rafah, despite US President Joe Biden's threat of pausing some arms deliveries. Israel, its close ally, has put the US in an awkward position, according to observers. They attribute this situation to the deep-rooted flaws in the US political system.

President Biden quoted by CNN threatened to stop the supply of specific weapons if Israeli soldiers entered populated areas of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip. The threat was widely interpreted as a turning point with relation

to Israel in the conflict.

Reacting to Biden's announcement, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that "If Israel is forced to stand alone, Israel will stand alone." Other Israeli officials also expressed criticism over Biden's remarks.

On Friday, the General Assembly is scheduled to hold a vote on Palestine's bid to become a full member of the UN, a move seen by many as largely symbolic. In a surprising move, Israel's UN Ambassador Gilad Erdan spoke on behalf of the US, stating, "If it is approved, I expect the US to completely stop funding the UN and its institutions, in accordance with American law."

Ding Long, a professor from the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times that despite increasing pressure from the international community, the Biden administration has stood firm with Israel by providing weapons and other assistance. But this time, Biden is eager to remove the burden of Israel and doesn't want it to become a negative factor for his election campaign.

A few days ago, during the negotiations in Cairo, the US dispatched the CIA director in hope of achieving a deal between Israel and Palestine to cool down the conflict. However, the current prob-

lem is that Netanyahu, whose position as prime minister is in peril, simply does not listen to the US, and proceeding the war is the only option for Netanyahu to continue political career, Ding noted. "Once you get on the tiger's back, it's hard to get off again."

Despite conditioning its military shipments to Israel, Biden remained committed to making sure Israel is secure in terms of Iron Dome and their ability to respond to those attacks. Li Jianmin, academic dean of the Institute of Central Asian Studies at Northwest Normal University, told the Global Times that the Biden administration cannot risk completely angering Israel.

One reason for the Biden administration not to completely turn its back on Israel is that protecting Israel is in line with its overall policy of playing a bigger role in the Middle East, Li said.

Israel's recent actions in Rafah has forced approximately 80,000 residents to flee their homes, with most seeking refuge in Khan Younis or Deir al Balah. These areas are lacking essential services, according to the United Nations.

The Israeli military instructed around 110,000 civilians to leave parts of Rafah, which has become a haven for many displaced Palestinians living in inadequate conditions, according to media reports.

▶ Nuclear power plant



An aerial photo shows the planned site for the Kaminoseki Nuclear Power Plant in Kaminoseki Town, Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan, on May 10, 2024. Chugoku Electric Power is preparing to build the Kaminoseki Nuclear Power Plant, which has been on hold since the March 2011 Fukushima plant crisis occurred. Photo: VCG

FM urges Japan to rein in ex-envoy over remarks on Taiwan

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday urged the Japanese authorities to strengthen supervision over a certain retired official who has made irresponsible comments on China's Taiwan island, and to cease sending the wrong signal to "Taiwan independence" separatist forces, in response to former Japanese ambassador to China Hideo Tarumi's latest wrong remarks.

Since retiring, the Japanese official has often made irresponsible remarks and engaged in actions that go against professional ethics and integrity, violating Japan's commitment to the one-China principle, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said at Friday's regular press briefing.

Lin also slammed Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authorities for seeking to curry favor with Japan. The DPP authorities deliberately engage in political manipulation, ingratiate themselves with Japan and sell Taiwan out in order to seek "Taiwan independence" through soliciting foreign support, Lin said.

According to The Japan News, more than 30 Japanese lawmakers will attend an inauguration ceremony for Taiwan regional leader Lai Ching-te on May 20.

The spokesperson warned the DPP authorities that collusion with external forces to plot "independence" provocations will never succeed, and those who sell out the national interests will eventually pay the price.

Japan has more than once made serious commitments to China on the Taiwan question, including not supporting "two Chinas," "one China, one Taiwan" or "Taiwan independence," said Lin.

China urges Japan to take concrete actions to honor its political commitment, thus maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Straits, the spokesperson said.

China's new ambassador arrives in India

By Liu Xin

Xu Feihong, the newly appointed Chinese ambassador to India, arrived in New Delhi on Friday. With the position vacant for 18 months, the arrival of a new ambassador presents a valuable opportunity for both countries to enhance communication, minimize misunderstandings, and reduce misjudgments, analysts said, noting that Xu's assumption of office is also a positive factor toward fostering the return of bilateral relations to a path of healthy and stable development.

Xu is the 17th Chinese ambassador to India. Since former ambassador Sun Weidong left his position, the post of Chinese ambassador to India has been vacant for 18 months.

Xu is a veteran diplomat with experience in several countries. According to the website of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he has served as the deputy director-general of the Department of the European Affairs, the ambassador to Afghanistan, the deputy director-general of the Department of Personnel of the Foreign Ministry, the ambassador to Romania and director of the Department of Service for Foreign Ministry Home and Overseas Offices. From 2021 to 2023, he served as Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Xu's selection from among senior officials of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs highlights China's significant commitment to bilateral relations, Qian Feng, director of the research

department at the National Strategy Institute at Tsinghua University, told the Global Times on Friday.

Qian also noted that Ambassador Xu's assumption of office coincides with a crucial period in China-Indian relations. India is currently undergoing elections and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also expressed a positive attitude toward China-Indian relations before the elections.

Ambassador Xu's coming to India will help enhance communication between China and India, reducing misunderstandings and miscalculations, and promote the bilateral relations back to a track of healthy and stable development, said Qian, also urging India to seize the opportunity to improve bilateral relations.

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