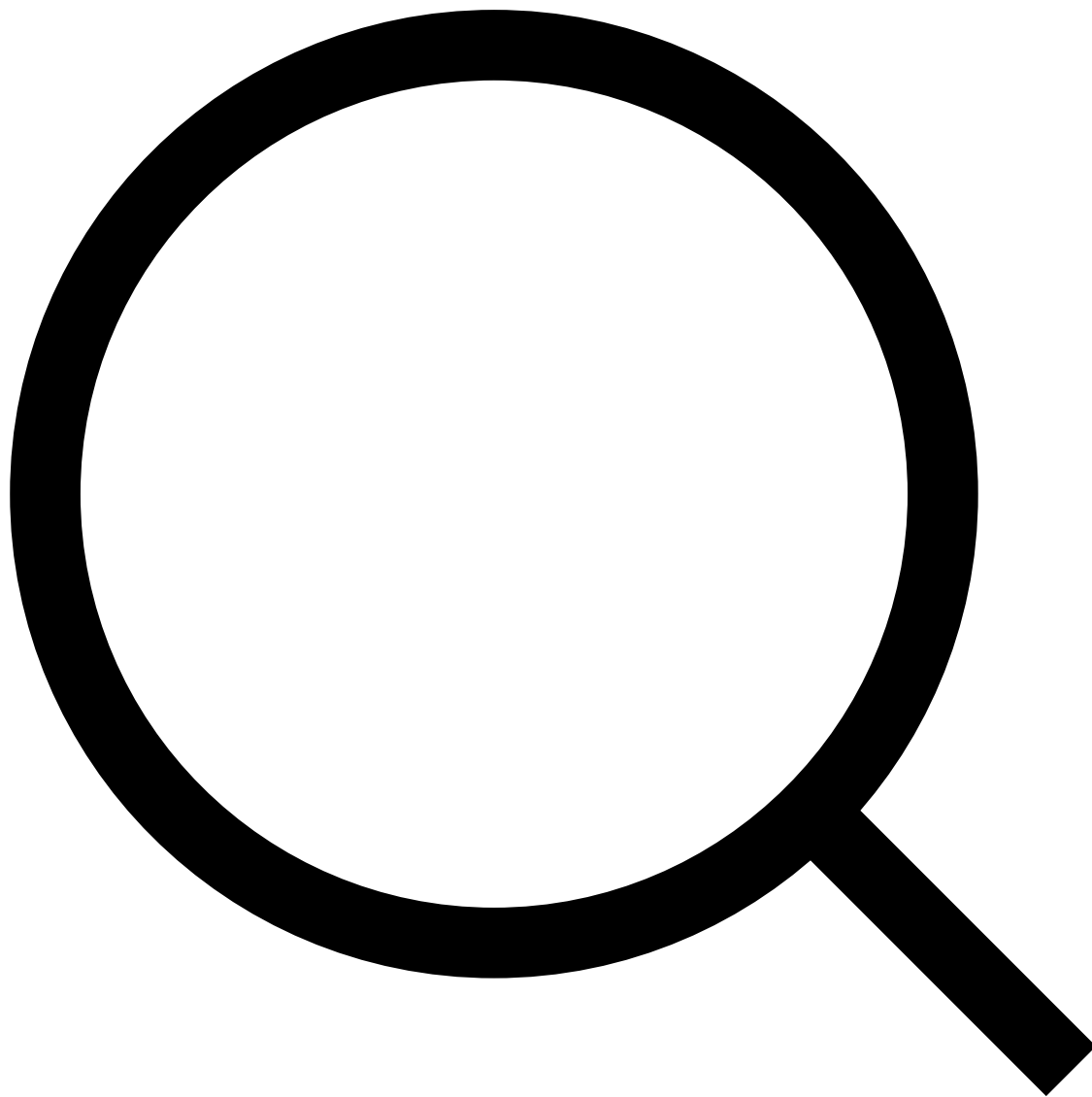


# China says it will respond to US admiral visit to Taiwan



Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian attends a news conference in Beijing, China. File/Reuters

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China will respond to the reported visit of a US Navy admiral to Taiwan and firmly opposes any military relations between Taipei and Washington, China's Foreign Ministry said on Monday.

A two-star Navy admiral overseeing US military intelligence in the Asia-Pacific region has made an unannounced visit to Taiwan, two sources told Reuters on Sunday. Neither Taiwan nor the United States has officially confirmed the trip.

The Trump administration has ramped up support for Taiwan, including with new arms sales, alarming China, which views the democratic island as one of its provinces with no right to state-to-state ties.

Speaking in Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said China “resolutely opposes” any form of exchanges between US and Taiwanese officials or the two having military relations.

China urges the United States to fully recognize the extreme sensitivity of the Taiwan issue, Zhao told a news briefing.

“The Chinese side will, according to how the situation develops, make a legitimate and necessary response,” he said, without elaborating.

China reacted with fury when US Health Secretary Alex Azar came to Taipei in August, followed by US Undersecretary of State Keith Krach in September, sending warplanes near to the island each time.

Zhao also expressed his displeasure with the signing of a memorandum of understanding on economic exchanges following a meeting between Taiwanese and US officials in Washington.

China has already lodged “stern representations” with the United States, which should stop having these kinds of interactions with Taiwan, he added.

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Reuters

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