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Hon. Chair, and members of the Committee:

My name is Harry Chen, President of the Formosan Association for Public Affairs, Canada. I speak today also with the support of the Taiwanese Canadian Association.

We are delighted to have this opportunity to express our views on the implications of the government's recent INTERNATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT for Canada's relations with Taiwan. To begin, as Canadian citizens, we strongly support the IPS' statement that "Canada's continued success depends on the joint pursuit of democracy, human rights and the rule of law". As Canadians of Taiwanese origin, we affirm that Taiwan is, like Canada, a sovereign, democratic state that respects the fundamental rights and freedom of its citizens. As such, the 23 million people of Taiwan should have the right to decide the future of their island nation.

Today I want to argue that there are two implications of the International Policy Statement for our Taiwan policy. First: Canada's Taiwan policy should be made in Canada, not made in China. Second: the Taiwan Affairs Act, Bill C-357 currently before the House, is in full accordance with the spirit of the IPS and consistent with Canadian Foreign policy towards Taiwan and should thus be passed.

### **(1) Canada's Taiwan Policy Should be Made in Canada, not in China**

In 1966, Paul Martin Sr., then Secretary of State for External Affairs of the Pearson government, told the UN General Assembly "Canada has never recommended a two-China policy. We have recommended a policy of 'One China, one Taiwan'". On October 13, 1970, Canada recognized

the People's Republic of China as the sole government of China, "taking note" of its claim that Taiwan is part of China; Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, told the House that "takes note" meant we "neither challenge nor endorse" China's position. This is OUR one China policy, which holds that the status of Taiwan is an important international issue, and Canada is open to any outcome that is in keeping with our principles, i.e. democracy, human rights, rule of law, and peaceful resolution of all international disputes.

China's "One China Policy" however is "One China No Taiwan". China's insistent claim that "Taiwan is an internal issue for China" is exactly a Chinese strategy to remove its aggression towards Taiwan from the rule of international law. Canada should make it very clear that OUR "One China" policy does not accept this. On his recent visit to Canada PRC President Hu Jintao complained in a September 8 press conference: "There are some 'annoying noises' in Canada on Taiwan issues in recent years, I want the Canadian government to deal with them properly, so that it won't harm the political foundation of Sino-Canada relations" More recently, Chinese ambassador Lu in a speech to the media threatened "consequences" to Canada if the elected honourable members of the House pass the Taiwan Affairs Act.

We are concerned that in the eagerness to sell more donuts to China, some one in the government will abandon the principles of the INTERNATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT and allow Canada's Taiwan policy to be made in China. We appeal to this committee to make sure this does not happen.

## **(2) The IPS requires that Taiwan Affairs Act, Bill C-357 should be passed**

In the POLICY STATEMENT Prime Minister Paul Martin has identified “five responsibilities” to push forward Canada’s international agenda, beginning with the “Responsibility to Protect”. At the very minimum, this will entail a requirement to protect the peaceful status quo in the Taiwan Strait. Currently, Taiwan is sadly facing a continuing threat from China with the apparent tacit approval of Canada and other Western countries. It cannot be in the interest of Canada for Asia's most vibrant democracy to be forcibly annexed by Asia's biggest dictatorship. Canada has the responsibility to prevent this military conflict from breaking out between China and its neighbours by actively supporting human rights and democracy and the rule of Law in both China and Taiwan. It must make a strong statement that a unilateral change in status quo by China will NOT be accepted by the international community.

The Taiwan Affairs Act, Bill C-357, proposes that Canada among other things conduct our foreign relations on the basis that peace and stability in East Asia are in the political, security and economic interests of Canada, and are matters of international concern and to consider any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means, a threat to the peace and security of the Asia-Pacific region and of grave concern to Canada. This is exactly an expression of the “Responsibility to Protect”. This Bill is fully in accordance with our made in Canada “One China Policy”, and will give a firm principled foundation to our relationship with Taiwan, sparing Canada, Taiwan, and China from the vagaries of changing policy opinion and political or economic pressures.

In conclusion, then, we would like to reiterate that Canada's Taiwan policies must be made in Canada, not made in China, and that passing the Taiwan Affairs Act, C-357, is a logical implementation of the principles articulated in the INTERNATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT.

Thank you very much.

Dr. Harry Chen

President

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