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The Election of Donald Trump to the next President and the Response of China **—In uncertainties after unusual presidential election—**

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It turned out that Mr. Donald Trump, a Republican presidential nominee, was elected as the next President and will be formally inaugurated as the 45th President of the United States on January 20 next year.

The policies Mr. Trump proposed during the election campaign were unique. He made it a top priority to accentuate differences shouting for the primacy of his policies over those of the Democratic administration under President Obama and Democratic nominee Mrs. Hillary Clinton and it seemed that he did not attach much value to ensure the consistency in his own policies. He opposed and criticized the policies promoting the free trade system as if the roots of all evils degrading America and declared to kill the TPP, a free trade negotiation while threatening protectionism and isolationism. He also made remarks that dared to estrange the alliance with Japan, Korea and NATO while hinting to improve the relationship with Russia as if counting on his personal feeling of trust with President Putin. Mr. Trump's remarks, which even suggested an early end of Pax-Americana, pleased China, which seeks to gain more influences in the East and Central Asian regions with its "Belt and Road" initiative.

Mr. Trump presented both soft and opposing attitudes towards China during the campaign. As an opposing attitude, he advocated that he would order to determine China as a currency manipulator (country that manipulated the exchange rate) and force China to correct its trade imbalance by applying high customs tariffs up to 45%. China quietly ignored these remarks regarding them as one of the election campaign tactics. However, the truth may be that China thought Mr. Trump as a fringe candidate with low possibility to be elected to the next President. China just welcomed Mr. Trump's remarks considering "any enemy of its enemy is its friend" in the backdrop of getting alarmed of an increased pressure on China from Mrs. Clinton, whom China regarded as the highly probable next President succeeding Mr. Obama.

The world is now all out to assess what path the US would take in the future. The policies such as corporate tax cuts and infrastructure investments that the President-elect Trump has

advocated have been quickly incorporated in the expectations of stock, bond, and foreign exchange markets as they are interpreted as highly possible to be implemented. On the other hand, foreign and security policies remain unclear, or rather unknown. Advisors to the Trump camp during the campaign contributed an article¹ to the Foreign Policy magazine on November 7, just before the Election Day. The article harshly denounced the failure of the Obama administration in the Asian diplomatic policy and argued to return to the Regan administration's "peace through strength" policy, as well as to demand necessary costs from the America's allied countries. As there were no voices heard on his diplomatic policy since Mr. Trump's victory, this article has served as an important reference to his diplomatic ideas. However, we see many gaps between their understanding and the reality of the Asia and Pacific region.

China also seemed confused by the election outcome that fell short of its expectations. On November 9, President Xi sent a message of congratulations to the President-elect Trump, which contained hackneyed contents we all saw before with some stiffness. On November 14, five days after, however, a stage was set for President Xi to deliver a verbal message by telephone where, refraining from referring to the differences between the two countries, he stated that "cooperation is the only correct choice" for the two countries. By highlighting the cooperation between the two countries, China showed a strong willingness to establish a good relationship with a new America led by President-elect Donald Trump, and the two leaders also agreed to hold an early top meeting.

On the other hand, arguments have suddenly come from the US media that worry about the US-China trade wars or warn China against taking a too optimistic view on the Trump administration. Meanwhile, China has hurriedly taken action on every level of government and non-government to deal with the new reality of the birth of President-elect Trump. On November 13 the Global Times, an opinion paper related to the People's Daily carried an article arguing a possible trade war scenario is a trap. The paper urged, while warning with its favorite threatening remarks mixed with a sense of caution, that if the US starts a trade war against China, "a number of US industries will be impaired, and finally the new president will be condemned for his recklessness, ignorance and incompetence and bear all the consequences".

In the future, there will be many acrimonious arguments between the US and China regarding trade, finance, national security, etc., although it seems that China wishes that the US and China will develop a mutual relationship based on cooperation and will manage a possible conflict properly.

¹ "Donald Trump's Peace Through Strength Vision for the Asia-Pacific" by Alexander Gray and Peter Navarro, Foreign Policy, Nov. 7, 2016
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2016/11/07/donald-trumps-peace-through-strength-vision-for-the-asia-pacific/>