

US university's invite to Dalai Lama sparks uproar from Chinese student association

AFP Hong Kong Free Press February 18, 2017



The Dalai Lama at Syracuse University. File photo: Wikicommons

A California university's decision to have the Dalai Lama speak at this year's commencement ceremony has sparked uproar among Chinese students who see the choice as an affront.

The University of California San Diego (UCSD) said it extended the invite to the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader in a bid to promote his message of "global responsibility and service to humanity."

However the San Diego chapter of the Chinese Students and Scholars Association and other groups have objected, denouncing the 81-year-old Nobel laureate as a separatist leader intent on dividing China.

"The Dalai Lama is not simply a religious person, but also a political exile who has long been engaged in splitting the motherland and destroying national unity," the student association said in a statement.

The university said in a statement that it stood by its decision and there was no indication it planned to rescind the invite. "The University of California San Diego has always served as a forum for discussion and interaction on important public policy issues and respects the rights of individuals to agree or disagree as we consider issues of our complex world," the statement said.

"As a public university dedicated to the civil exchange of views, the university believes commencement is one of many events that provide an appropriate opportunity to present to graduates and their families a message of reflection and compassion," it added.

The Dalai Lama — who heads the main branch of Tibetan Buddhism — has been a thorn in the side of Beijing.

The spiritual leader, who has lived in exile in the north Indian town of Dharamsala since a failed 1959 uprising, has for decades called for more Tibetan autonomy rather than independence.

Chinese authorities maintain he is a "separatist" seeking to split Tibet from the rest of the country.

<https://www.hongkongfp.com>

Japan ruling, opposition parties condemn N Korean missile launch

Japan Today February 13, 2017

TOKYO - Japan's ruling and opposition parties condemned North Korea on Sunday for its latest test-firing of a ballistic missile.

Executives of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's task force on North Korean nuclear and missile issues agreed to urge the government to take strict measures, including fresh sanctions.,

KYODO <https://www.japantoday.com/>

Malaysia issues strong condemnation of N. Korea's ballistic missile launch

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia also condemned North Korea's medium-range ballistic missile launch on Sunday. The Foreign Ministry said the launch was another blatant violation of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions by the socialist state. Malaysia also urged North Korea to desist from further launches and to comply fully with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Jokowi's Australia Trip Is Expected to Ease Tensions, Strengthen Bilateral Relations

Jakarta Globe Sun Feb 26, 2017

JAKARTA, Indonesia. President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's visit to Australia on Saturday (25/02) is expected to ease tensions between the two countries following strained diplomatic relations after Indonesia suspended military cooperation with Australia in January when teaching materials deemed offensive were found on an Australian military base.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said in a statement on Friday that both leaders hope to strengthen the bilateral relationship between Indonesia and Australia over the two-day trip.

This is Jokowi's first official state visit to Australia since being elected in 2014.

Jokowi was originally scheduled to make his visit to Australia in November, but the trip was cancelled due to mass demonstrations in Jakarta.

Separately, a report from The Australian newspaper said Jokowi will discuss the prospect of joint patrols with Australia in the South China Sea when he meets Turnbull.

Jokowi told The Australian newspaper he would like to see joint patrols with Australia, but only if it did not further inflame tensions with China.

Indonesia has traditionally taken a neutral position on the South China Sea, acting as a buffer between China and fellow members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations



that have the most at stake, the Philippines and Vietnam

. But after China angered Indonesia by saying the two countries had "overlapping claims" to waters close to Indonesia's Natuna Islands, Jakarta staged large-scale exercise on the edge of South China Sea in October.

<http://jakartaglobe.id/>

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo kicked off his two-day trip to Sydney on Saturday noon by meeting with CEOs of Australian multinational companies, during which he assured them about Indonesia's supportive investment climate despite global and domestic challenges.

Australia's investment in Indonesia reached US\$168 million in 2015, with most going to mining and tourism sectors.

Israeli President voices support for stronger defence ties with Vietnam

VNA Vietnam plus Thursday, February 9, 2017



Deputy Defence Minister Nguyen Chi Vinh (L) meets with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin in Jerusalem (Photo: VNA)

TEL AVIV, Israel - Israeli President Reuven Rivlin has received Vietnam's Deputy Defence Minister Nguyen Chi Vinh, affirming the support that he and the Government of his country give to defence ties with Vietnam.

At the meeting in Jerusalem on February 7, Reuven Rivlin considered the Vietnamese delegation's visit to Israel as a demonstration of the growing cooperation, including in defence, between the two countries

He said the outcomes of bilateral cooperation have helped strengthen mutual trust and met the two people's interests for the sake of peace, stability and development in their respective regions and the world.

Sen. Lt. Gen. Vinh, who was leading a delegation of the Defence Ministry on a visit to Israel from February 6-9, underlined Vietnam's consistent foreign policy of being a friend and a trustworthy partner in the international community.

During the trip, Vietnamese officials had meetings with Israel's Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman and Acting National Security Advisor Jacob Nagel. They also visited some units and businesses in the local defence industry.-VNA

<http://en.vietnamplus.vn>

SPRITZER - The clinically proven natural mineral water from Malaysia launched in Britain

LONDON - Malaysian natural mineral water ACILIS by SPRITZER was launched in London, 24 January 2017. This initial venture into the UK was made possible through the partnership between Spritzer and Link-Us Associate UK

Present at the launching ceremony was Professor Chris Exley of Keele University in Staffordshire, a world authority on aluminium toxicity.

He shared that SPRITZER Natural Mineral Water was used in his clinical trial that showed by just drinking one litre of SPRITZER daily was able to remove aluminium-a known neurotoxin from the human body as a result of life-long exposure to the metal in food, tap water, cosmetics, medications and environmental air pollution from car exhaust and cigarette smoke.

The Professor reiterated that removing this neurotoxin from the body could well act as a precaution against the possible onset of neurological



Dr Chuah Chaw Teo, Executive Director at Spritzer, Professor Christopher Exley, from Keele University and Rex Garratt, of silicawaters.com

disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease.

Malaysia's High Commissioner to the UK and Northern Ireland, Dato Ahmad Rasidi Hazizi, officially launched the bottled water at the Park City Grand Plaza Hotel in Kensington.

www.SilicaWaters.com