

China-U.S. Relations Need Positive Momentum



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In a letter to Chinese President Xi Jinping on February 8, U.S. President Donald Trump extended his greetings to Xi and the Chinese people on the Lantern Festival, which fell on February 11.

Trump's failure to follow his predecessors' example of offering greetings to the Chinese people on the occasion of the Lunar New Year (January 28) had triggered speculation in the international community over the new U.S.

administration's stance toward China.

Following the message, the two presidents had a phone conversation on February 10, during which Trump said that the U.S. Government adheres to the one-China policy.

A formal phone call between the two leaders was slow to come after Trump's inauguration. This should be largely blamed on Trump's phone call with Taiwan leader Tsai Ing-wen after election. The move showcased the serious underestimation by Trump and his aides of the sensitiveness of the Taiwan question. Worse still, Trump not only refused to admit the mistake, but also intended to play the Taiwan card. In response, China stated its solemn position that the integrity of its sovereignty is non-negotiable, pointing out that the one-China principle is the political foundation of China-U.S. relations.