

Flash note
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Nancy Pelosi to visit Taiwan despite China threatens military action

House Speaker Pelosi began her trip to Asia on Sunday for Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea, and Japan however her itinerary did not confirm whether she will stop over in Taiwan. Beijing has escalated verbal threats and conducted live-fire military drills in the Taiwan Strait.

Despite these threats, FT and Reuters reported today the US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi will meet with Taiwan's president Tsai Ing-wen in Taipei on Wednesday, being the most senior US lawmaker to visit Taipei since Speaker Newt Gingrich visited in 1997. She will likely land in Taiwan today Tuesday night on board of a US Air Force aircraft.

Some suggested that a Chinese aircraft could attempt to intercept Pelosi's aircraft, something that could provoke a protective intervention by the US military. Pelosi is scheduled to land at 10.30pm local time today, according to reports.

US warns Beijing not to turn Speaker Pelosi's visit to Taiwan into a "crisis"

Washington has warned Beijing not to respond to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's trip to Taiwan with military provocations, turning a visit consistent with policy into a crisis or conflict. Washington reminded Beijing Pelosi's visit would not be the first made by a high-ranking official, nor does it represent any change in policy toward Taiwan.

China's foreign ministry who said Beijing has repeatedly stated to the US its grave concern over Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, remained resolutely opposed it. It said her visit would constitute a 'gross interference in China's internal affairs, while seriously undermining China's sovereignty and territorial integrity.' "The PLA will not stand idly by," it warned

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