



Cleo Paskal • 2nd

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President Panuelo gives extraordinary detail on PRC political warfare in FSM and the terms of the offer to switch from Beijing to Taipei. "I am acutely aware that informing you all of this presents risks to my personal safety; the safety of my family; and the safety of the staff I rely on to support me in this work."

After the recent elections, President Panualo has only two months left in the job. They will be crucial for the region, and beyond. Some excerpts from his letter.

It is on this basis that Political Warfare and Grey Zone activity occur within our borders; China is seeking to ensure that, in the event of a war in our Blue Pacific Continent between themselves and Taiwan, that the FSM is, at best, aligned with the PRC (China) instead of the United States and, at worst, that the FSM chooses to "abstain" altogether.

One of the reasons that China's Political Warfare is successful in so many arenas is that we are bribed to be complicit, and bribed to be silent. That's a heavy word, but it is an accurate description regardless. What else do you call it when an elected official is giving an envelope filled with money after meal at the PRC Embassy or after and inauguration? What else do you call it when a senior official is discreetly given a smartphone after visiting Beijing? ...What else do you call it when an elected official receives a check for a public project that our National Treasury has no record of and no means of accounting for?

[W]hen Vice President Palik visited Kosrae, he was received by our friends Da Yang Seafoods. Our friends at Da Yang have a private plane, and they arrived in Kosrae (along with several senior FSM government officials) on a private plane. Our friends told the Vice President that they can provide him private and personal transportation to anywhere he likes at any time, even Hawaii, for example; he only need ask.

[I]t is not a coincidence that the common thread behind the Chuuk State succession movement, the Pohnpei Political Status Commission and, to a lesser extent, Yap independence movement, include money from the PRC and whispers of PRC support. (That doesn't mean that persons yearning for secession are beholden to China, of course - but, rather, that Chinese support has a habit of following those who would support such secession).

At worst in the short-term, it means we sell our country and our sovereignty for temporary personal benefit. At worst in the long-term, it means we are, ourselves, active participants in allowing a possible war to occur in our region, and very likely our own islands and our neighbours on Guam and Hawaii, where we ourselves will be indirectly responsible for the Micronesian lives lost.

In February 2023, I met with the Honourable Joseph Wu, Foreign Minister of Taiwan.

[For what happened next, read the letter.]