

theref not object to his visit to Canada nor to Hua's contacts with appropriate interlocutors in Ottawa (DIAND and those within DFAIT)

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Consulted: PRC/Houlden, PKE/Mundy

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P R O T E C T E D

Mike,

The purpose of this message is to advise you that the Chair of Taiwan's Aboriginal Affairs Commission (AAC) would like to make a brief, unofficial visit to Canada at the end of August to:

- (a) accompany a Taiwanese aboriginal group for their performance in Toronto;
- (b) meet with members of the Mohawk community in Kahnawake; &
- (c) if possible, receive briefings on current Canadian aboriginal issues in Ottawa at DFAIT or DIAND and the Assembly of First Nations.

Longer term, we would like to work with the AAC to help them negotiate an MOU with the appropriate Canadian partner to encourage exchanges on aboriginal issues. Immediately below is some background on this file and at the bottom of the message are our recommendations.

#### BACKGROUND

Hua Chia-chia is the Chairman of Taiwan's Aboriginal Affairs Commission (AAC); the position is a Cabinet level appointment. The Commission was founded in December 1996, indicative both of increased attention being paid to aboriginal issues in the Taiwanese government, and of growing awareness of the role of aboriginal people in Taiwanese history, society, and culture among the population at large.

The AAC has a permanent staff of 150 and is responsible for aboriginal

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