

Spokesperson for the U.S. Embassy in China:

Your letter has been received. First, we appreciate that Ambassador Branstad values the People's Daily. We have always taken a positive and open-minded attitude toward requests by Ambassador Branstad, among other friends from countries around the world who hold objective and fair views on China, to publish submitted articles on the People's Daily.

As early as April 15th, 2013, Mr. Branstad, then governor of Iowa, published an op-ed titled The Unique Partnership with China on the third page of the People's Daily, in which he expressed the hope to build a stronger economic partnership with China. With the proactive support of the People's Daily Press, Ambassador Branstad published op-eds titled My First Year as U.S. Ambassador and Our Global Response to Fight COVID-19 on Global Times, a publication affiliated with the People's Daily, this year and last year. Facts prove that we have always attached great importance to articles submitted by His Excellency Ambassador Branstad.

The People's Daily is consistently committed to promoting better communication and understanding between the Chinese and American peoples. Recently, however, the United States keeps escalating political suppression and persecution against Chinese press institutions in the United States out of Cold War mentality and ideological prejudice: from registration as "foreign agents" to designation as "foreign missions"; from denying visa to Chinese journalists to de facto expelling Chinese press journalists in the United States; and recently the United States adopted discriminatory visa restriction measures that limit visa validity period to no more than 3 months for all journalists of Chinese media, including those permanently based at the United Nations Headquarters; up to now, it is still not clear whether all Chinese journalists' visas, which was due on August 6, will be renewed. This leaves multiple journalists with the People's Daily in the United States and their family members, including even young children, in huge uncertainties, severely impacts the work and life of Chinese journalists in the United States, and greatly restricts the freedom of media reporting. Relevant U.S. moves grossly interfere Chinese media's normal reporting activities in the United States and obstruct normal people-to-people exchanges between the two nations. The United States should immediately correct its discriminatory practices and effectively ensure the safety and rights of journalists of Chinese media in the United States, including those working for the People's Daily.

Regrettably, the U.S. side, on the one hand, claims that the People's Daily and other Chinese media are the CPC's "propaganda machines", and on the other hand, demands that the "propaganda machines" do "propaganda" for the United States, which is illogical, overbearing and unreasonable. In our opinion, the op-ed in the name of Ambassador Branstad is full of loopholes and seriously inconsistent with facts. It does not meet the consistent standard of the People's Daily, a prestigious, serious and professional media, for selecting and publishing

articles. If you do wish to publish this op-ed in the People's Daily, you should make substantive revisions based on facts in the principle of equality and mutual respect. On this basis, we are willing to maintain contact and communication with you.

Enjoy your stay in Beijing!

International Division, People's Daily

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