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'Civil' escalation with China



A top U.S. air force general predicted in a leaked memo last week that his country and China will [go to war over Taiwan in 2025](#). Czech Pres.-elect Petr Pavel helped the escalation along in his own small way yesterday by [speaking on the telephone with Taiwanese Pres. Tsai Ing-wen](#), which was an almost unheard-of event for a top representative of the executive branch of a Western government (as opposed to the legislative branch). When Donald Trump did it in 2016, it caused a scandal. Neither Trump nor Pavel were yet president when they spoke with her, though, which is important from a diplomatic point of view. Pavel, who is still a private citizen under Czech law, told Czech Radio on Sun. (at [20:10](#)) that he wouldn't want to cause more damage than good by visiting Taiwan as president. Yesterday he said that he expressed the hope to madam president that he'll have the [opportunity to meet her in person in the future](#). That's sufficiently vague that it keeps the escalation to a "[civil](#)" level for now.

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