

# Pan-democrats should withdraw threat to veto political reforms

In his article paying tribute to Lee Kuan Yew ("A life of service", March 26), Henry Kissinger said the father of modern Singapore "understood the relevance of China and its looming potential and often contributed to the enlightenment of the world on this subject. But in the end, he insisted that without the United States there could be no stability."

In a letter Kissinger wrote to me in 1995, he said maintaining good relations between the US and China was paramount as China redefines itself, and it would need sensitivity and restraint on all sides.

Both Kissinger and Lee in their respective ways made lasting contributions towards making China better known and understood by the global community, especially the US.

Kissinger and Lee met all five top Chinese Communist Party leaders, Mao Zedong (毛澤東), Deng Xiaoping (鄧小平), Jiang Zemin (江澤民), Hu Jintao (胡錦濤) and Xi Jinping (習近平).

Both were often lauded by the Chinese leadership as old friends of the Chinese people.

President Xi recently praised Lee as founder, pioneer and promoter of China-Singapore relations.

On his regular visits to China, Lee often stopped by for a few days in Hong Kong, which he saw as a "source of inspiration, of ideas of what was possible given a hard-driving society" and he made it a point to note what he could learn and introduce in Singapore.

Lee had an abiding interest in our city and whenever he spoke about Hong Kong, he was candid.

In December 2000 when Lee visited Chinese University to receive an honorary doctor of laws degree, he told students protesting at his visit that if Hongkongers were willing to work within the framework of the Chinese and Hong Kong constitutions, there would be more opportunities for participatory government to develop.

"Otherwise", he said, the chief executive and Hong Kong people would be "locked in a frustrating process of attrition". At this critical stage of our history, the pan-democratic lawmakers' threat to veto the government's political reform package, if carried out, could be the flashpoint of that process of attrition that would negatively affect Hong Kong's economy, social stability and competitiveness.

All sectors of our community should back the government's campaign to persuade the pan-democratic lawmakers to withdraw their veto threat and let the reform package be passed in the Legislative Council next month by the requisite two-thirds majority.

## 泛民應撤威嚇言論 政改方案不可否決

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基辛格撰文悼念李光耀（《鞠躬盡瘁》，3月26日），說這位現代新加坡之父「深明中國所起的作用，以及其愈來愈明顯的潛力，他也常常在這方面為世人解惑。但最終他仍強調，沒有美國便沒有穩定。」

在一封1995年寫給我的信中，基辛格說，在中國重新自我界定的時候，美國和中國保持良好關係至為重要，各方亦需要小心和克制。

基辛格和李光耀兩位各以其方式令全球社會，尤其是美國，更熟悉及了解中國。他們兩位都見過中國產黨全部五代最高領導人：毛澤東、鄧小平、江澤民、胡錦濤和習近平。

他們都獲中國領導層讚揚為中國人民的老朋友。

習主席最近便讚揚李光耀是中新關係的奠者人、開拓者和推動者。

李光耀經常訪問中國，很多時候順道在香港逗留幾天，這個他視為「靈感和甚麼是一個拼搏城市可以做得那類主意的泉源」的地方，而他亦對那些新加坡可以做而效之的事物格外留意。

李光耀對我們的城市興趣始終如一，每次談及都言詞坦誠。

2000年12月，李光耀到中文大學接受榮譽法學博士學位，對抗議他到訪的學生說，香港人如果願意在中國和香港的憲法框架內運作，便會有更多機會讓一個參與式政府發展。

「否則，」他說，特首和香港人將會「擺脫不到令人沮喪的消耗過程。」

在這個我們的歷史的關鄉鍵時候，立法會泛民議員威脅要否決政府的政改方案，如果真的成事，這個消耗過程便一觸即發，香港的經濟、社會穩定和競爭力便大受打擊。

社會各界應支持政府，說服立法會泛民議員撤回否決方案的威嚇，使政改方案得以在下個月以三分二的大比數通過。

土瓜灣張有興