

Goodbye Colin

Following his election victory, President Bush has an opportunity for a reshuffle of his cabinet. Of all the people he should replace, there is one man who stands head and shoulders above the rest – Colin Powell. In his chosen area of foreign policy, Powell is not the sharpest pencil in the box. The latest example of this involves Taiwan. Taiwan is an island off mainland China with a democratic system of government. The communist Chinese state claims sovereignty over it and Powell has effectively **supported** this claim:

Aiming a few well-placed kicks at the groin of a former ally, Powell informed the Hong Kong station: "Taiwan is not independent" and "does not enjoy sovereignty as a nation, and that remains our policy, our firm policy."

We have commented that the current conflict is a **war on conspiracy theories**. Communist ideology is riddled with conspiracy theories and so China is a cause for concern even if it not presently threatening us. We recognise that since the US is currently trying to get China to lean on North Korea, it would be a bad idea to annoy the Chinese government too much. However, there is a difference between Colin Powell not going out of his way to annoy the Chinese government and casually conceding their legitimacy to destroy a democratic country. Since Powell does not recognise this it seems that he is not a good diplomat nor, therefore, a good Secretary of State. We would be surprised if the Bush administration could not find a better one.

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A good move to replace him after 4 years and search the field. Colin Powell is planning on leaving it seems so however it might be phrased, he is going. Not surprising that he represented the administration's views on Taiwan. He has toed the line as a message bearer however his actions and statements might have appeared to the world. Secretary of State is a quietly private as well as public position with most lasting diplomatic efforts evolving in the private sphere and within the department and cabinet. He never was cut out for the role as the U.S. chief diplomat despite his willingness to serve.

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