

# ► Following the US' confrontation strategy against China costly: expert Australia, NZ meeting shows 'delicate approach'

By Xu Keyue

Certain Australian media outlet claimed that the meeting between Australian and New Zealand prime ministers on Saturday in Queenstown, New Zealand was dominated by China and Gaza. However, reports indicate both leaders also acknowledged areas of cooperation with China during their talks, and a joint statement following the meeting mentioned China-US competition, the South China Sea, the East China Sea and the Taiwan Straits without directly naming China. An expert noted that this meeting indicates a delicate approach of the two countries to-

ward China.

A Chinese expert warned on Sunday that the intention of Australia and New Zealand to enhance military cooperation should be viewed with vigilance, calling on both countries to act as contributors to regional peace and stability.

"China [and] Gaza dominate Albanese's meeting with New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon," Australian news outlet AAP claimed in a headline on Sunday. Both leaders agreed that competition between the world's superpowers, China and the US, needed to be managed, and continued dialogue was important to reduce risks of misunderstanding,

miscalculation, escalation and conflict in the Pacific region, according to the report.

The joint statement following the meeting, published on the Australian Prime Minister's official website on Saturday, mentioned "China" three times. One sentence stated that the two prime ministers emphasized "the need for competition to be managed responsibly and underscored the importance of continued dialogue between the United States and China."

The other two mentions of "China" were made in the context of the two prime ministers expressing "grave concern about dangerous and provoca-

tive behaviour in the South China Sea," and "serious concern about the situation in the East China Sea." They did not single out any particular country in the references, according to the joint statement. Also, the joint statement claimed that the two prime ministers mentioned the Taiwan question.

Chen Hong, a professor and director of the Australian Studies Center at East China Normal University, told the Global Times that the Australian and New Zealand prime ministers stopped short of directly criticizing China, and the remarks "cooperate where we can... disagree where we must" reflect a pragmatic stance. Chen said

that the two countries should be aware of the fact that the cost of following the US' approach of confrontation would be far greater than pursuing independent dialogue.

The expert urged the two countries to stop using the Taiwan question to interfere in China's internal affairs. Chen stressed that the one-China policy is clearly stated in the joint communiqués on the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and New Zealand and between China and Australia. "Australia and New Zealand must clearly recognize that the Taiwan question is at the very core of China's core interests," he said.



Displaced Palestinians carry food parcels as they raid trucks carrying humanitarian aid in Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip on August 9, 2025. Photo: VCG

## UNSC convenes for meeting over Israel's plan to take control of Gaza City

By Deng Xiaoci

The UN Security Council on Sunday held an emergency meeting on Israel's plan for its security forces to take control of Gaza City, according to the UN's website. A Chinese expert said on Sunday that the primary focus was to urge Israel to abandon its plan for the complete occupation of Gaza City.

Speaking at the session, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas Miroslav Jenca said that Israel's operational decision to take full military control of Gaza City puts more than 2 million Palestinians in even greater peril and further endangers hostages' lives, according to UN News.

Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the

Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times on Sunday that the UN Security Council's primary focus is to urge Israel to halt its military operations in Gaza and abandon its plan for the complete occupation of Gaza City.

However, Liu also noted significant obstacles to reaching a binding resolution, citing the US' policy of supporting and shielding Israel. Liu added that Israel would face significant challenges in implementing the plan, including international isolation, severe internal political divisions, and difficulties in effectively controlling Gaza.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday he is determined to launch the recently approved

plan to take over Gaza City, which has drawn international condemnation, and that Israel will maintain security control over the enclave after the war, Xinhua reported.

Britain, Denmark, France, and other countries that have called Sunday's UNSC session have issued a joint statement that condemns Israel's plan to seize Gaza City, saying that it risks "violating international humanitarian law" and will "only endanger the lives of all civilians in Gaza," according to Al Jazeera.

Commenting on Israel's plan to take control of Gaza City, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said on Friday that China is gravely concerned about Israel's decision, and urges Israel to halt the move at once.

## South Korea police probe right-wing group for insulting China: Yonhap

By Xu Yelu

South Korean police have launched an investigation into a social group that recently insulted China during a demonstration near the Chinese Embassy in South Korea, the Yonhap News Agency reported.

According to Yonhap, the Namdaemun Police Station in Seoul recently summoned members of the right-wing group "Freedom University," which supports former president Yoon Suk-yeol, to appear for questioning on Monday.

At around 8 pm on the evening of July 22, the group held a rally near the Chinese Embassy in Seoul's Jung District, which it claims to be aimed at condemning election fraud. During the rally, they carried out unfriendly activities toward China, including insulting the embassy, Yonhap reported.

Since President Lee Jae-myung took office, South Korea's government has sent positive signals of friendliness toward China, shifting to "pragmatic diplomacy" and emphasizing the deepening of bilateral economic cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, Da Zhigang, director of the Institute of Northeast Asian Studies at the Heilongjiang Provincial Academy of Social Sciences, said.

This move reflects that the current South Korean government does not support the actions of some domestic forces to promote anti-China sentiment or undermine bilateral relations, Da said.

In a notice on July 9, the Chinese Embassy in South Korea said certain political forces in South Korea have fabricated allegations of "Chinese interference in the South Korean election" to accuse and smear China, and China firmly opposes this.

