

CHINA SAYS 'NO COMPROMISE' ON SOVEREIGNTY AHEAD OF ALASKA MEET

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China's Foreign Ministry said on Thursday it would not make concessions to the U.S. on key issues, including Xinjiang and Hong Kong, ahead of high-level meetings between the two countries' diplomats in Alaska.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken and White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan are set for talks with senior Chinese official Yang Jiechi and Foreign Minister Wang Yi later Thursday.

It is the highest-level face-to-face diplomatic meeting between the two countries since U.S. President Joe Biden took office.

China wants a reset in relations, which were pitched into turmoil by Donald Trump's presidency, which brought a damaging trade war and spats over everything from defence to tech and rights in Hong Kong.

But as the diplomats landed in Alaska hours ahead of the talks, a Foreign Ministry spokesman in Beijing issued a warning to Washington.

"China has no room for compromise on issues concerning its sovereignty, security and core interests," spokesman Zhao Lijian said.

Mr. Zhao urged the U.S. against talking tough and engaging in "megaphone diplomacy" toward China after Washington said it intended to show its firmness against Beijing after a round of alliance-building across Asia.

"The US should meet China halfway and conduct the dialogue in a sincere and constructive manner," Mr. Zhao said.

The Alaska talks will be the first between the powers since Mr. Yang met Mr. Blinken's hawkish predecessor Mike Pompeo last June in Hawaii — a setting similarly far from the high-stakes glare of national capitals.

The American diplomats aim to be on the front foot in the talks, U.S. officials have said. The U.S. plans to express "deep concerns" about the treatment of the Uighur minority in Xinjiang, a crackdown in Hong Kong, Chinese "economic coercion" and Beijing's "increasingly aggressive" stance towards Taiwan.

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