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Taiwan's Chief Acknowledges Communist Control of China

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President Lee Teng-hui said today that if Taiwan wanted to regain international recognition it must admit that the Communists rule mainland China.

Mr. Lee's statement was the first public acknowledgment by a Taiwanese leader that the Communists control the mainland.

But, Mr. Lee refused to give up the Nationalist claim to the mainland.

"There is only one China and the country will be reunified eventually," he said. "The ultimate goal of our foreign policy is to keep the nation's sovereignty intact."

Mr. Lee made the statement at the opening session of a three-day congress of the governing Nationalist Party, which has ruled Taiwan since the Nationalists lost the mainland to the Communists in 1949.

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