

U.S. to defend Taiwan against China: Biden

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

REUTERS

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U.S. President Joe Biden said on Monday he would be willing to use force to defend Taiwan against Chinese aggression. The comment seemed to stretch the limits of the ambiguous U.S. policy towards the self-ruled island.

While Washington is required by law to provide Taiwan with the means to defend itself, it has long followed a policy of “strategic ambiguity” on whether it would intervene militarily to protect Taiwan in the event of a Chinese attack.

After Mr. Biden made the remark at a news conference with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo, an aide said the President’s statement represented no change in the long-standing American stance to the island that China claims as its own.

A reporter asked Mr. Biden if the U.S. would defend Taiwan if it were attacked. “Yes. That’s the commitment we made,” he answered. “We agree with a one-China policy. We’ve signed on to it and all the intended agreements made from there. But the idea that, that it (Taiwan) can be taken by force, just taken by force, is just not, is just not appropriate.”