

Businessweek

The Donald Trump Interview Transcript

Full text, fact-checked.

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Would you defend Taiwan against China?

Look, a couple of things. No. 1, Taiwan. I know the people very well, respect them greatly. They did take about 100% of our chip business¹. I think, Taiwan should pay us for defense. You know, we're no different than an insurance company. Taiwan doesn't give us anything. Taiwan is 9,500 miles away. It's 68 miles away from China. A slight advantage, and China's a massive piece of land, they could just bombard it. They don't even need to—I mean, they can literally just send shells. Now they don't want to do that because they don't want to lose all those chip plants. You know, all those plants and they don't want to do that. But I will tell you, that's the apple of President Xi's eye, he was a very good friend of mine until Covid that I really, you know, I was, I didn't feel the same way. Same thing with Putin.

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Taiwan produces 92% of advanced microchips, according to the [Semiconductor Industry Association](#).