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### **1. Trump Speaks With Taiwan's Leader, an Affront to China**

(5)

President-elect Donald J. Trump spoke by telephone with Taiwan's president on Friday, a striking break with nearly four decades of diplomatic practice that could precipitate a major rift with China even before Mr. Trump takes office. (8)

Mr. Trump's office said he had spoken with the Taiwanese president, Tsai Ing-wen, "who offered her congratulations." He is believed to be the first president or president-elect who has spoken to a Taiwanese leader since at least 1979, when the United States severed diplomatic ties with Taiwan as part of its recognition of the People's Republic of China. (12)

### **2. Germany Releases Berlin Attack Suspect as ISIS Claims Involvement**

(5)

German officials Tuesday released the chief suspect in the gruesome terrorist attack against a Christmas market in Berlin, launching a nationwide search for an attacker that the Islamic State claimed had acted on the terror group's behalf. The attack in Berlin, which killed 12 people and wounded many others, immediately heightened the sense of political vulnerability around Merkel. (12)

The authorities announced that they had arrested a 23-year-old Pakistani asylum seeker who arrived in Germany last December as a suspect. By evening, the federal prosecutor said the man had been released because there was no proof linking him to the crime. (8)

### 3. Turning Point in Syria as Assad Regains All of Aleppo (5)

The evacuation of civilians and fighters from the last rebel-held part of Aleppo concluded Thursday after long delays because of frigid weather, putting all of Syria's industrial capital back in the hands of President Bashar Assad's forces for the first time since 2012. (8)

Assad's army relied heavily on foreign military support from Russia, Iran and Shiite militias like Lebanon's Hezbollah to surround the rebel-held area. Months of shelling and airstrikes that killed hundreds of people and reduced entire neighborhoods to rubble finally routed the rebels and pushed the area's inhabitants to leave under an agreement brokered by Russia, Turkey and Iran. (12)

### 4. If Donald Trump Pushes on Taiwan, How China Could Push Back (5)

President-elect Donald J. Trump has made it clear that he views the central basis for diplomatic relations between Washington and Beijing — known as the “One China” policy — as ripe for review. Mr. Trump hit the most sensitive of what the Chinese Communist Party calls its “core interests.” If Washington formally recognizes Taiwan, the Chinese are expected to break off diplomatic relations. (10)

Chinese analysts say China has plenty of leverage to retaliate against Mr. Trump. One prominent target is Boeing, whose Seattle plant Xi Jinping, China's president, visited in September 2015. In 2016, Boeing is expected to complete plane deliveries to China worth \$11 billion, mostly 737s that have become the workhorse of China's rapidly expanding airlines. (10)