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## Taiwan's Former President Visits Japan

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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TOKYO (AP) -- Former Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui arrived in Japan on Wednesday as China expressed concerns that his trip may be politically motivated.

Lee has been a strong critic of Beijing, which still claims sovereignty over self-ruled Taiwan more than five decades after the two sides split during a civil war.

Lee's office has said the 11-day trip will focus on visits to Japanese cultural sites. His itinerary, however, also includes speeches and a news conference.

Earlier this week, Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi expressed concerns about the trip to his Japanese counterpart, Taro Aso, during a meeting in Germany.

Yang said the trip has "political implications" and may prevent progress in China-Japan relations, according to Keiji Kamei, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official.

Aso said that Tokyo's understanding is that Lee will not engage in any political activities while in Japan, the official said.

On Tuesday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu urged Japan to "not give any political platform for the Taiwan separatist movement."

Japan has official diplomatic relations with Beijing, but not with Taiwan. China regularly opposes visits by Taiwanese officials to countries with which it has diplomatic ties.

The 84-year-old former leader is to give a speech Friday at the Shimpei Goto award ceremony, named after a former administrator of Taiwan. Japan ruled Taiwan as a colony between 1895 and 1945.

He is to give another speech on the global situation after 2007 at a university in Tokyo next Thursday and hold a news conference next Saturday.

Lee told reporters that he also wants to visit a Tokyo war shrine where his older brother is among the enshrined.

The Yasukuni Shrine deifies Japan's 2.5 million war dead and tens of thousands of Koreans and Taiwanese who were drafted into Japan's military.

The shrine is vilified by critics at home and abroad as symbolizing the country's militaristic past. Class-A war criminals executed for their role in World War II are enshrined at Yasukuni.

