

Can China's new ambassador to EU build bridges after doomed efforts in Israel?

Cai Run nearly pulled off a major diplomatic coup before the Gaza conflict, and now faces a major challenge in the form of the Ukraine war

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A Chinese diplomat beams with satisfaction as an unlikely world leader smiles while leafing through a book dedicated to Xi Jinping Thought, plucked from a box on the desk that separates the pair.

[...]

"If the war hadn't happened, if October 7 [the Hamas attack on Israel] hadn't happened, the massacre and the invasion that we're in, then remember that Netanyahu would have visited China," said **Tuvia Gering**, a non-resident fellow at the Atlantic Council specialising in relations between China and Israel.

[...]

Had Netanyahu gone to Beijing, Gering said, Israel's ties with China would probably have been upgraded to be "strategic" level, as they were with the Palestinian Authority in June of last year, "because they always like to raise and match". "Cai Run perhaps could have come out as a hero overseeing this upgrading in relations," Gering added

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