

**March 24, 1950**  
**Unnumbered Telegram from Taipei (Strong) to the  
Secretary of State**

**Citation:**

"Unnumbered Telegram from Taipei (Strong) to the Secretary of State", March 24, 1950, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Case Number F-1979-01277, US Department of State Virtual Reading Room.  
<https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/301240>

**Summary:**

Telegram discusses political instability and US concerns regarding governance in Taiwan amid growing tensions with the People's Republic of China. It highlights efforts to improve administrative efficiency and military preparedness under Chen Cheng and Sun Li-jen, as well as the strategic importance of Taiwan's defense. This document summary was generated by an artificial intelligence language model and was reviewed by a Wilson Center staff member.

**Credits:**

This document was made possible with support from Chun & Jane Chiu Family Foundation

**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan  
Transcript - English

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS  
TELEGRAPH BRANCH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEWED BY *L. Adelman* DATE *2/9/52*

INCOMING TELEGRAM

REASONS(S)
EXTENDING MARKINGS
DECLASSIFIED
RELEASE
PA or FOI

5-D  
Action:  
Info:  
SS  
G  
P  
OLI  
CIA  
DCR

Date of Action  
Name of Officer  
Direction to DC/R

SECRET

CORRECTED COPY  
3/24/50, 11 a.m.  
CORRECTIONS UNDERLINED  
Control 11175  
Rec'd March 24, 1950  
5:37 a.m.

FROM: Taipei  
TO: Secretary of State  
NO: Unnumbered, March 24, 6 p.m.  
DEPT. PASS CSGID FROM ASTARMAT TRIPEX SIGNED BARRETT.  
240230Z.  
Cite OP 74.

For what my opinion may be worth believe situation here definitely improved since my arrival 20 February. Reliable reports indicate Chen Cheng trying to avoid mistakes which wrecked him in NE. Recent Cabinet appointments and removal of Ku Chu-tung giving definite impression Generalissimo trying replace rotten wood with good material. Report Sun Li-jen to become Commander-in-Chief Chinese Army may mean much or little but initial effect good on civilian and military morale. Concensus informed opinion Communists cannot take Taiwan without extensive Soviet aid particularly air and good chance holding island even in face such aid. Shakiest area now appears to be Hainan. Seems to me greatest need of Chinese Government now is money.

STRONG

BB:RT

NOTE: Passed CSGID 3/24/50, 8 a.m. SMD.

NOTE: Correction relayed CSGID 3/24/50, 10:30 a.m. HEC.

SECRET

PERMANENT RECORD COPY: THIS COPY MUST BE RETURNED TO DC/R CENTRAL FILES WITH NOTATION OF ACTION TAKEN.

DC/E Correction Desk -2

793.00/3-2450

SECRET

793.00/3-2450

MAR 30

93.13

[...]

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[...]