

May 14, 1956

**Despatch No. 653 from American Embassy Taipei to
the Department of State, 'Detention of Deputy
Speaker Lin'**

Citation:

"Despatch No. 653 from American Embassy Taipei to the Department of State, 'Detention of Deputy Speaker Lin'", May 14, 1956, 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/301256>

Summary:

Reports on the detention of Lin Ting-li (spelled here as Lin Tin-lip), Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Assembly, for alleged illegal flour sales and suspected political activities. The despatch highlights Lin's past roles in intelligence, his business dealings, and political ties with figures like Chiang Ching-kuo, Chen Cheng, and K.C. Wu. The detention was reportedly authorized by President Chiang Kai-shek, following accusations by Vice President Chen Cheng of Lin's efforts to undermine Kuomintang influence among Taiwanese. Lin was described as politically influential but indulgent and self-serving

.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

AIR POUCH
PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL
(Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE

FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICE OF CHINESE AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

793.00/5-1456 R

FROM : AMEMBASSY, Taipei NY 21 1956

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REF : Embtel 999 - Rptd. Hong Kong 268

24B
X2-293.2
MAY 14 1956
REVIEWED BY
DATE

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.	REASON(S)
	REC'D	IN F O	
17	FEY	RMK-2 olib P-1	5/22
5/18		Civ 7 US-17-10 OCB	RELEASE DENIED

SUBJECT: Detention of Deputy Speaker Lin

This document must be returned to
793.00/5-1456

According to the press the three persons arrested with Lin Tin-lip, Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Assembly, (reported in the telegram under reference) have been released pending trial. Lin is still under detention, but is permitted to have one family visitor daily.

A knowledgeable member of a minor political party gave the following information to the reporting officer. During the period when Lin was head of the Intelligence Service in Taiwan, Ch'en Ch'eng was serving as Governor and later as Prime Minister. The two men collaborated closely and harmoniously. Lin, in accordance with accepted practice, was permitted to engage in business speculation and other non-official activities to raise extra funds for his official intelligence operations. Prior knowledge of Government rulings and activities facilitated Lin's profit-making speculation. It is customary, in these activities, to divert some of the profits to personal use and Lin retained large sums for his personal expenditures.

When Ch'en Ch'eng became Vice President, Lin established a working relationship with Chiang Ching-kuo and continued his collaboration with Chiang after he left the Intelligence Service to enter politics. Lin, however, began to supply Chiang with information hurtful to Ch'en Ch'eng, perhaps in return for Chiang's permission to establish his own political influence among the Taiwanese.

In his own defense Ch'en finally approached President Chiang Kai-shek with evidence to show that Lin had retained to the present day a working political relationship with K. C. Wu and that he was trying to undermine the influence of the Kuomintang among the Taiwanese. Apparently, according to this informant, President Chiang gave Ch'en permission to proceed against Lin, which he did on the basis of his illegal sales of flour.

Several non-political but well-to-do Taiwanese told the reporting officer that Lin had developed considerable political influence. They said he was able and intelligent, but gross and self-

GFCaprio/ahm
REPORTER

CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

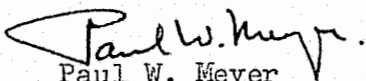
CONFIDENTIAL FILE
LWC

CONFIDENTIAL
(Classification)

indulgent. They said also that Lin was notorious for his female establishments, having at least two wives and several concubines. He has other expensive tastes and, they added, kept a larger percentage of the profits obtained from the above-mentioned extra-official speculations for personal use than is generally countenanced.

The Embassy has heard nothing more concerning the rumor that Lin had some connection with Thomas Liao in Tokyo.

For the Ambassador:


Paul W. Meyer
First Secretary of Embassy


CONFIDENTIAL