

May 20, 1959

**Telegram No. 1210 from Taipei to the Secretary of
State**

Citation:

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Summary:

Outlines discussions from a Kuomintang (KMT) Central Committee session, including President Chiang Kai-shek's apparent willingness to serve a third term and the election of a new Standing Committee. While constitutional revision was opposed by Chiang, the document indicates mechanisms to retain him in office during a national crisis. Notable appointments and shifts, including Chiang Ching-kuo as a likely Deputy Secretary-General, highlight party restructuring. Additionally, the committee's election brought in Taiwanese members, signaling attempts at inclusivity, while other personnel changes aimed to address internal criticisms

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Original Scan

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDS/MR
INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

REVIEWED BY P. Nichol DATE 7/19/82

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TO: Secretary of State

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 MAY 20 1959
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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SS NO: 1210, May 20, 7 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 1210, CINCPAC PCLAD 300, HONG KONG

Press reports following close May 19 of KMT central committee plenum indicate major highlights of session, apart from formal reports and resolutions (Taipei's 1201, 1208, and 1209), were:
 (1) indication provided of President's intentions regarding third terms; (2) election of new standing committee of question of re-registration of party members. According to CHINA POST, question of anti-Communist nationals salvation conference was raised, but no discussions were held. As regards rumored personnel shifts (notably rumored designation of Huang Sheo-Ku as KMT Secretary-General and Hunag's replacement by Tsiang Ting-Fu, Wang Shih-Chieh, or Hollington Tong) POST notes "no decision on any personnel shifts of ranking party members were made. It is expected that matters regarding personnel will be referred to standing committee".

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Today's independent LIEN HO PAO cites "authority sources" to effect most likely candidate for party Secretary Generalship is now O.K. Yui, with Chiang Ching-Kuo and Cheng Yen-Fen likely designates for Deputy Secretary General positions. Tang Tsung, according to same sources, is to be made Chief of Provincial Party committee.

Today's press comment makes even clearer that President, while technically postponing public declaration of his intention to have third term, has left no doubts in minds of party members that he will be available for draft when National Assembly meets in 1966. Column by CHINA POST "news analyst", in past frequently vehicle for inspired comment, said May 19 that President "admits he has said on number of occasions that he is against revising constitution. But he maintains he has never said he will step down from presidency." Columnist analyzes constitutional problem, pointing out there are "at least two ways open for President to

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serve another...term." (1) Action under "temporary provisions effective during period of national crisis" appended to constitution and (2) constitutional interpretation by grand justices. Columnist explains President's opposition to amendment of constitution was based largely on fact "any revision of constitution here in Taiwan would tend to limit its representation only to Taiwan." Column concludes it is now "crystal clear" President will be asked to stay on, but that President will not announce decision "until National Assembly meets next March."

Lineup of new standing committee includes four "new faces": Wang Shu-Ming, Tang Tsung, Huang Chi-Lu, and Huang Chao-Chin. They take places of Shen Chang-Huan, departing for Madrid as Ambassador, Ma Chi-Chuang (G. John Ma), new head of combined service forces, Justice Minister Ku Feng-Hsiang, and Cabinet Secretary Chen Hsueh-Ping. Election of Huang Chao-Chin, with old member Chiu Nien-Tai, give standing committee two Taiwanese members. Dropping of Chen Hsueh-Ping and Ku Feng-Hsiang also noteworthy. Chen is reportedly strong Chen Cheng man. Ku has been under attack from within and without government for some time because of alleged poor situation in Justice Ministry and court scandals.

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