

March 11, 1958

**Despatch No. 511 from American Embassy Taipei to
the Department of State, 'Election of Taiwan
Provincial Kuomintang (KMT) Committee'**

Citation:

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Summary:

The despatch details the election of the new Taiwan Provincial Kuomintang Committee, which included 15 members and 7 alternates. This restructuring emphasized increased Central Committee control over provincial affairs, aligning with a broader trend toward tighter centralization under the Kuomintang leadership. This document summary was generated by an artificial intelligence language model and was reviewed by a Wilson Center staff member.

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF
REF :

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ASSIGNED TO
MARCH 11, 1958

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SUBJECT: Election of Taiwan Provincial Kuomintang (KMT) Committee
to DC/R Date

Summary

The new Taiwan Provincial Committee of 15 members and 7 alternates includes 9 new members and 3 new alternates. Since the appointment of CHOU Chih-jou as Governor and the Eighth Congress there appears to have been a strengthening of Central Committee control over Provincial Party and Government affairs. The ratio of mainlanders to Taiwanese remains the same. The new Chairman, JEN Chio-wu, appears to be a staunch organization man with strong support but his political alignments are not known.

1. Introduction.

The 4th Taiwan Provincial KMT Congress met in the suburbs of Taipei January 27-30, 1958. More than 180 representatives attended the four day session. Director General CHIANG Kai-shek, Deputy Director General CHEN Cheng, Secretary General CHANG Li-sheng were among the high party officials who addressed the Congress. The principal item of business was the election of a new Provincial Committee and alternates.

2. Fourth Taiwan Provincial Committee.

A new 15 member committee was elected (Enclosure 1) along with 7 alternates. Five members of the Third Committee (Enclosure 2) were re-elected, a former alternate was named to the Committee, and 9 new members were elected. Three former members were elected this time as alternates. Among the new slate of alternates, one was re-elected, three former Committee members became alternates, and three new alternates were elected. There are two female members on the Committee as against one previously. There are now three Provincial Assemblymen represented as against one before. The breakdown between Taiwanese and Mainlanders remains the same on the Committee, 8 Taiwanese to 7 Mainlanders, but among the alternates the ratio

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(Classification)

Page 2 of

Encl. No.

Disp. No. 511

From Taipei 3-11-58

is 6 Taiwanese to 1 Mainlander compared with the previous line-up of 3 to 4.

The former Chairman, KUO Cheng, was elected to the national level Central Committee in October, 1957, and has also been named Deputy Secretary General of the Mainland Recovery Planning Board. Presumably for this reason he was not re-elected to the Provincial Committee. In other cases, the reasons why individuals were dropped are not so clear. Another former Provincial Committee member, CHEN-LU Chin-hua, was elected as an alternate Central Committee member. There are, however, two new members of the newly elected Provincial Committee, JEN Chio-wu and KUO Yung, who were elected as alternate members of the Central Committee by the Eighth Congress. Among others not re-elected are LIU Hsien-yun, Director of the Scientific Education Library of the Ministry of Education; KUN Li-tuan, adviser to the Provincial Government; CHANG Fang-hsieh, General Manager of the Yung Kuar Co.; and WANG Wan-chu and LAN Ngo-chou, Executive Secretaries of the Taiwan Provincial Government. LAN is currently under investigation by the Taipei District Court on charges of corruption.

On February 5 at the first meeting of the new committee, JEN Chio-wu was elected Chairman and he assumed his duties on February 10. JEN is a native of Szechwan and is a National Assemblyman. From his past record (Enclosure 3) he appears to be a staunch organization man and may be personally close to CHANG Chun, the Presidential Secretary General. From his experience on the mainland with the KMT Youth Corps it is likely he used to have connections with the CC Clique, although there is no indication this is presently the case. His rapid emergence as an influential KMT leader, first being elected as a Central Committee alternate and secondly as Chairman of the Provincial KMT Committee, indicates that he has strong support in party circles. His political alignment within the Party, if he has such, are not now known.

Among the five members re-elected to the Provincial Committee are the Provincial Commissioner of Civil Affairs; a member of the Provincial Council, the Director of the Provincial Training Corps, a Provincial Assemblyman, and the former Provincial Police Commissioner. It is of interest to note that LO Kan has kept his position in the Party in spite of his loss of official position as Police Commissioner as a result of the May 24 riots. The former alternate now named to the Provincial Committee, HSU Chin-te, is a Provincial Assemblyman. The 9 new members include: three members of the National Assembly; the Secretary General of the Provincial Assembly; the Provincial Police Commissioner; the Provincial Deputy Commissioner of Education; a Section Chief of the Youth Corps; a member of the Provincial

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(Classification)

Page 3 of
Encl. No. _____
Desp. No. 511
From Taipei 3-11-58

Assembly; and the Director of the Provincial Fishery Administration. Among the alternates are two members of the Provincial Council, the Executive Director of the Taiwan Cement Corporation, the President of the Railway Labor Union, the President of the Taiwan Paper and Pulp Corporation, the Director of the Provincial Forestry Administration, and a former Provincial Assemblyman.

3. Comments.

National and Provincial Relationships. The KMT Central Committee appears to be achieving a firmer grasp over Provincial affairs than heretofore. Governor CHOU Chih-jou, Provincial Secretary General TANG Tsung, and the Speaker of the Provincial Assembly, HUANG Chao-chin, are all members of the Central Committee. This is a much stronger direct connection that was the case with the 7th Central Committee and the administration of former Governor C. K. YEN. At that time neither the Governor nor the Secretary General were Central Committee members.

From the Provincial Committee side there are two new members on the Provincial Committee, JEN Chio-wu and KUO Yung, who were elected by the Eighth Congress as alternate Central Committee members. Prior to the Eighth Congress none of the Provincial Committee members were concurrently members of the higher body.

There now exists an intricate system with firm vertical lines of control from the Central Committee down to key Provincial officials outside the Provincial Committee, directly down to the Provincial Committee as a subordinate KMT body, and liaison by members holding positions at both levels. It appears that control from National Party level has been strengthened considerably since the appointment of CHOU Chih-jou as Governor, the Eighth Party Congress, and the election of the Fourth Provincial Committee. The Central Committee has apparently tightened the lines of control down to the Provincial level.

The reasons for this tightening up are not fully clear and may be simply coincidental in that the men for the jobs as Governor and Secretary General happened also to be Central Committee members. While the effect of strengthening Central Committee control appears to exist, it does not necessarily mean a deliberate policy, but might be fortuitous.

On the other hand, the fact that this stronger control does seem to exist raises a question as to whether the apparent decision of the Eighth Congress to relax the policy of "democratic centralism", as noted in Embassy Despatch No. 438, February 11, 1958, is actually being implemented. The deletion of the phraseology pertaining to democratic centralism may become

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(Classification)

Page 4 of

Encl. No.

Disp. No. 511

From Taipei 3-11-58

meaningless if the trend toward concentrated Central Committee authority really exists as a deliberate policy, and if it is extended.

Provincial Party and Government Relations. In contrast to the Central Committee, where virtually every key agency of the National Government is represented, the Provincial Committee is markedly different. In the first place, the Governor, Secretary General, Speaker of the Provincial Assembly, and Deputy Speaker (Alternate member of the Central Committee) are excluded. Secondly, except for the Department of Civil Affairs and Police, which of course are the most important departments, none of the other Provincial Departments are represented on the Provincial Committee except by minor officials. Only three of the 18 members of the Provincial Council are represented. There are, however, three Provincial Assemblymen. Six members and 4 alternates hold no official government position.

This relationship is largely a continuation of that existing under the previous Provincial Committee and does not represent any significant change.

Size of the Provincial Committee. The Provincial Committee has been maintained at its previous size of 15 members and 7 alternates. At the Eighth National Congress some emphasis was placed on bringing in new blood. Although it is doubtful whether this emphasis was fully borne out in practice, there was a substantial increase in the number of Central Committee members, which was raised from 32 to 50, and in the number of alternates, which went from 16 to 25. No such increase has taken place at the Provincial level; however, the addition of some new blood was effected by the election of 9 new committee members and 3 new alternates.

Ratio of Mainlanders to Taiwanese. The breakdown of Committee members as to origin is 7 Mainlanders and 8 Taiwanese, which is exactly the same as before. Among the alternates, however, the ratio is 1 Mainlander to 6 Taiwanese, while it used to be 4 Mainlanders to 3 Taiwanese. Of the 5 members re-elected to the Committee, 4 are Taiwanese and 1 is a Mainlander, while the former alternate who was raised to Committee membership is Taiwanese. Of the three former Committee members who were made alternates, all were Taiwanese. Among the nine new members, 6 are Mainlanders and only 3 are natives. The predominance of Taiwanese as alternates seems to reflect the trend, already apparent at lower echelons in the Party as well as in the city and county councils, magistrates and Provincial Assembly, toward a gradual increase in Taiwanese representation.

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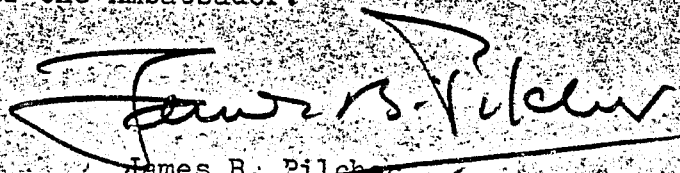
CONFIDENTIAL

(Classification)

Page 5 of
Encl. No. _____
Desp. No. 511
From Taipei 3-11-58

Political alignments: There is no evidence to suggest there was any reflection in the Committee elections of the supposed rivalry between CHEN Cheng and CHIANG Ching-kuo. The former Chairman appears to have been close to CHEN Cheng and is now Deputy on the Vice President's Mainland Recovery Planning Board. The new Chairman judging from his long experience appears to be an organization man but his political alignment is not yet known. His rapid rise does suggest that he has strong political support.

For the Ambassador:



James B. Pilcher
Deputy Chief of Mission

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Enclosures:

1. 4th Provincial MT Committee.
2. 3rd Provincial MT Committee.
3. Biographic Data, JEN Chio-wu.

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(Classification)

Page 1 of

Encl. No. 1

Disp. No. 511

From Taipei

4th Provincial KMT Committee, Taiwan, January 1958

Members:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|--|
| Jen Chio-wu (Chairman) | 任覺五 | Born 1902; native of Szechwan; National Assemblyman and Alternative Member of KMT 8th Central C'tee. |
| Hsieh Jen-yang | 薛人仰 | Born 1912; native of Fukien; former Magistrate of Tainan Hsien; Secretary-General, Provincial Assembly. |
| Kuo Yung | 郭永 | Born 1915; native of Hunan; Commissioner of Police; former Taiwan Provincial Assemblyman; and Alternative Member of KMT 8th Central C'tee. |
| Lien Chen-tung (reelected) | 連震東 | Born 1904; native of Taiwan; Taiwan Provincial Commissioner of Civil Affairs. |
| Lai Shun-sheng | 賴順生 | Born 1909; native of Taiwan; Taiwan Provincial Deputy Commissioner of Education. |
| Chou Pai-lien (reelected) | 周百鍊 | Born 1909; native of Taiwan; Member of Taiwan Provincial Governor's Council. |
| Pan Chen-ch'iu (reelected) | 潘震球 | Born ; native of Kiangsu; Director, Taiwan Provincial Training Corps. |
| Tseng Hsien-yung | 曾憲銘 | Born 1918; native of Kiangsi; A section Chief, Chinese Youth Anti-Communist and National Salvation Corps. |
| Lo Kan (reelected) | 樂幹 | Born 1908; native of Szechwan; former Provincial Police Commissioner. |
| Wu Hung-shen | 吳鴻森 | Born 1896; native of Taiwan; National Assemblyman. |

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)

Page 2 of

Encl. No. 1

Disp. No. 511

From Taipei

Li Chien-ho (reelected)

李建和

Born 1910; native of Taiwan; Taiwan Provincial Assemblyman and President, Taiwan Coal Mine Operators' Association.

Cheng Yu-li (F)

鄭玉麗

Born 1910; native of Taiwan; National Assemblywoman and President, Taiwan Women's Association.

Hsu Chin-te (former
Alternative)

許金德

Born 1907; native of Taiwan; Taiwan Provincial Assemblyman.

Liang-Hsu Ch'un-chu (F)

梁許春菊

Born 1919; native of Taiwan; Taiwan Provincial Assemblywoman.

Liu Yung Ch'ueh

劉永慈

Born 1906; native of Kiangsu; Director, Taiwan Provincial Fishery Administration.

Alternate Members:

Ku Chen-pu

辜振甫

Born 1917; native of Taiwan; Executive Director, Taiwan Cement Corp.

Weng Ch'ien (former
Alternative)

翁鈐

Born 1916; native of Taiwan; Member of Taiwan Provincial Governor's Council.

Chien Wen-fa (former
Member)

簡文發

Born 1909; native of Taiwan; President, Taiwan Railway Labor Union and Member, KMT Hqs., Railway Branch.

Yu Mi-chien (former
Member)

游彌堅

Born 1896; native of Taiwan; former Mayor of Taipei City; President, Taiwan Paper and Pulp Corp.

Lin Yung-liang (former
Member)

林永樑

Born 1912; native of Taiwan; Member of Taiwan Provincial Governor's Council.

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Ch'ien Huo-tu

陳火土

Born 1906; native of Taiwan;
former Member of Taiwan
Provincial Assembly.

T'ao Yu-tien

陶玉田

Born 1904; native of Shantung;
Director, Taiwan Provincial
Forestry Administration.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)

Page 1 of

Encl. No. 2

Disp. No. 511

From Taipei

3rd Provincial KMT Committee, Taiwan

Members:

Kuo Ch'eng (Chairman)	郭澄	Born 1907; native of Shansi; Member, KMT Central Office.
Lien Chen-tung	連震東	(see above)
Pan Chen-ch'iu	潘震球	(see above)
Chien Wen-fa	簡文發	(see above)
Lin Yung-liang	林永樑	(see above)
Liu Hsien-yun	劉先雲	Born 1910; native of Hupeh; former Taiwan Provincial Commissioner of Education; Director, Scientific Education Library, Min. of Education.
Yu Mi-chien	游彌堅	(see above)
Lo Kan	樂幹	(see above)
Kung Li-tuan	龔履端	Born 1911; native of Fukien; Adviser to Taiwan Provincial Government.
Chou Pai-lien	周百鍊	(see above)
Li Chien-ho	李建和	(see above)
Chang Fang-hsieh	張芳燮	Born 1916; native of Taiwan; General Manager, Yung Kuang Co.
Ch'en-Lu Chin-hua (F)	陳呂錦花	Born ; native of Taipei; Alternative Member, KMT Central Committee and Deputy Executive Officer, Chinese Women's Anti-Communist and National Salvation Corps.
Wang Wan-chu	王萬居	Born 1910; native of Kwangtung; Executive Secretary, Taiwan Provincial KMT Hqs.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)

Page 2 of
Encl. No. 2
Desp. No. 511
From Taipei

Lan Ngo-chou

藍寧洲

Born 1913(?); native of Kwang-tung; Executive Secretary, KMT Taiwan Provincial Hqs.; concurrently General Manager KMT operated Taiwan Warehouse Corporation.

Alternate Members

Li Huo

李火

Born 1901; native of Taiwan; former Director, Farmers' Association, Changhua City; former Council Member, Changhua Hsien.

Hsiang Ch'ang-ch'uan

項昌權

Born 1903; native of Chekiang; former Mayor of Taipei City; Adviser to Executive Yuan and concurrently Chief, General Service Office, Ntl. Chengchih University.

Weng Chien (re-elected alternate see enclosure 1)

翁鈞

Hsu Chin-te (elected to Committee see enclosure 1)

許金德

Chou Shih-kuang

周世光

Born 1912; native of Nenkiang; National Assemblyman.

Chan Tsun-chien

詹純鑑

Born 1904; native of Kiangsi; former Chief Secretary, KMT Taiwan Provincial Hqs.

Ch'en Hsien-chou

陳仙洲

Born ; native of Honan; former Taiwan Provincial Commissioner of Police; former Deputy Commander, Taiwan Provincial Civil Defense Comm

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)

Page 1 of

Encl. No. 3

Desp. No. 511

From Taipei

Biographic sketch of Jan Chio-wu: Born in 1902; native of Szechwan; junior of Nankai University; majored in mathematics and science; graduate, political branch, 4th class, Huangpu Military Academy; B.A. of political science, Meiji University, Japan; Director, Chung Kuo Tih Pao; Instructor, Lushan Training Corps; Director, Political Indoctrination Department, Central Military Academy in Chengtu, similar Department in Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's Hqs. in Sian; Superintendent, Shensi Provincial Administrative Personnel Training Corps; executive Member, Deputy Director, Organization Dept., KMT Youth Corps; Chief Executive Member, KMT Youth Corps branches in Chengtu and Chungking; instructor, Central Training Corps; Director, Szechwan Provincial Rural Area Service Corps; Dean of Discipline, Szechwan Provincial Training Corps; Director, Summer Camp in Kuan Hsien, Szechwan; Cultural Committee Member, Executive Member, KMT Central Committee; professor, West China Union University, Chengtu; Provincial Educational Commissioner of Szechwan; incumbent Chinese National Assemblyman. Publisher of "Ideology and Revolution". Author of "Vitalism and Review of History from Viewpoint of People's Livelihood".

Translated by JP

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