

**March 25, 1950**  
**Telegram No. 491 from Taipei to the Secretary of  
State**

**Citation:**

"Telegram No. 491 from Taipei to the Secretary of State", March 25, 1950, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Case Number F-1979-01277, US Department of State Virtual Reading Room.  
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**Summary:**

This document details a meeting between a US official and Taiwan's Premier Chen Cheng.&nbsp;

**Credits:**

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**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan

*DE*

*R*

INCOMING TELEGRAM

RECEIVED BY *P. Appelt* DATE *4/9/50*

Action Assigned to *CA*

Action Taken \_\_\_\_\_

EXT. DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
REL. (ON(S)) \_\_\_\_\_  
EXISTING MARKINGS   
CLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE   
RELEASE DENIED   
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

CONFIDENTIAL

*108 B*

Control \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

Rec'd Action Office Symbol *CA*  
1:19 P.M.  
Name of Officer *[Signature]*

MAR 27 1950  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Direction to DC/R *[Signature]*

ENR  
OLA  
CIA  
AAN  
DCR

FROM: Taipei  
TO: Secretary of State  
LO: 491, March 25, 2 p.m.

SECRET DEPARTMENT 491, REPEATED HONG KONG 141.

Called on Premier Chen Cheng for forty-five minutes today, found him friendly. Dressed in military uniform.

Expressed to Premier good impression created by new Cabinet and military appointments that would be possible report to my government continuing improvements in situation. Remarked also on rising morale which contrasted with pessimism of few weeks ago.

Premier declared had assumed office with widespread support, had declared firm intention successfully defend Taiwan although outcome would depend on extent of Soviet aid to the Chinese Communists; now devoting full attention political affairs though earlier engaged military affairs would aim at Mao, stating stability as prerequisite to holding Taiwan; encouraged by aspect of aid to be voted by Congress for 1951.

Explained to Premier my impression that in some circles morale rose and fell in accordance with status of legislation in US involving substantial sums, that this not particularly healthy, and that understanding of nature and extent of aid proposed by US administration was desirable. Pointed out US aid though small compared to sums spent on mainland was in proportion to population and area now actually much greater, and much more effective view relatively slow economy. Also that stability and military security of Taiwan had direct relationship to US aid.

Premier referred

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MAR 31 1950  
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STRONG

In concluding the letter expressed desire maintain close contact, outlined any desired information from his files regarding Soviet participation in Chinese Communist military preparations. (Strong)

Traveler returned shortly to Hainan, stating hoped to meet at and had now been problem.

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-2- # 491, Hainan, P.R. from Hainan