

September 16, 1950

Telegram No. 388 from Taipei to the Secretary of State

Citation:

"Telegram No. 388 from Taipei to the Secretary of State", September 16, 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/301295>

Summary:

The document highlights that no responsible Chinese officials or significant public opinion factions desire the cancellation of the US Seventh Fleet mission, despite its lack of direct military strengthening for Formosa. 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

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

ACTION COPY

TELEGRAPH BRANCH

25-22-X

Action
FE

Info
SS
G
UNA
DCR

FROM: Taipei

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 388, September 16, 1950

SECRET

Central: 6301
A/CDC/MR
September 16, 1950
Moon
DATE 7/9/82

REVIEWED BY [Signature]

TS [] EXT. DATE []
REASON(S) []
EXISTING MARKINGS []
DECLASSIFIED [] RELEASABLE []
DENIED []
EXEMPTIONS []

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
16 SEP 19 1950

Responsive Department's comments on certain points raised DEPTEL 237, September 15, 1950, following observations ventured in hope of demonstrating Department's and Chinese Government positions much closer together than may have appeared.

794a.00
611.93
794a.022

1. To our knowledge, no responsible Chinese official and no significant faction public opinion would wish Seventh Fleet mission cancelled under present circumstances. Local reaction to President's remarks at press conference August 31 is ample confirmation.

2. Chinese hold above position despite fact that US action begun June 27 has so far contributed to no permanent strengthening Chinese military forces on Formosa, while at same time preventing any interference with concurrent and substantial build-up of Chinese Communist preparations for invasion (MYTEL 339, September 2, transmitting memorandum from Foreign Minister).

3. There is appreciation in Chinese official circles of US position on proposed Formosan investigation, coupled with hope US will appreciate delicacy of situation here which prospect of such investigation has brought about. While not expecting US actively to look consideration of proposal Chinese Government hopeful we will not only avoid sponsoring it but overlook no suitable opportunity to allow project either to die or take innocuous form. Chinese Government instructions to its SC representative simply to abstain if proposal comes to vote is evidence of reasonable official attitude.

XR
330
320

Assigned ~~4.~~ US course hoped for by Chinese Government scarcely of nature to provide pretext Chinese Communist aggression. In any case, well established Communist pattern of action based upon more substantial motivation and uses tangible or many factured pretexts almost solely for propaganda.

Action
Symbol
1950

SECRET

5. Whatever

SEP 29 1950

FILED

SECRET FILED

611.94A/9-1650

PERMANENT
RECORD COPY

This copy must be returned to DC/R central files with notation of action taken

REPRODUCTION OF
MESSAGE IS PROHIBITED

SECRET

-2-#388, September 16, 4 p.m., from Taipei

5. Whatever precise US position with reference to support Nationalist Government; success of Seventh Fleet mission is dependent to important degree on maintenance of technical effectiveness and morale of Chinese Armed Forces. NSC decided sometime ago Formosa could not be held without use of US ground forces. Since then, Communist air, sea, land preparations against Formosa have advanced substantially. Evidently, it is more important than ever that US should strive to avoid, and whenever possible prevent steps liable foster uncertainty, alarm, or dissention among Chinese forces, thereby inviting Chinese Communist attack and contributing to its possible success.

RANKIN

JB:BBS

Note: DEPTTEL 237 drafted in FE:CA:T.L.Perkins.

011504000
SECRET