

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

DEF 12-1 Chicom

RMR 22

SECRET

P BIAS

EXCISE

46
Action

55
Info

RR RUEHCR
DE RUASTP 10 24/1145Z
R 241100Z ZEA
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUALOT/AMEMBASSY TOKYO
RUMJDH/AMCONGEN HONGKONG
RUHLHQ/CINCPAC
STATE GRNC

020973
1964 OCT 24 PM 12 54

BT
SECRET ACTION DEPT 347 INFO TOKYO 69 HKONG 79 CINCPAC 65
OCT 24 7 PM

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STATE PASS TO CIA

TODAY 24TH [CLINE] BRIEFED PRESIDENT ON SPECIAL SUBJECT. PRESENT
AMB, PRESIDENT AND MADAME, CHIANG CHING-KUO, FORMIN,
GENERAL HUANG, (INTERPRETER) AND KENNEDY. BRIEFING SUPPLEMENTED
THAT OF CARTER TWO DAYS BEFORE AND COVERED BOTH TECHNIQUES AND
LI OKUKI* SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON EVENTS OF INTEREST HERE.
CFN 347 69 79 65 24 7 24TH

PAGE TWO RUASTP 10 SECRET
BRIEFING WELL RECEIVED AND MADE OBVIOUS IMPRESSION.

THERE FOLLOWED AN HOUR OF DISCUSSION PRINCIPALLY ON ELABORATION
OF VIEWS OF PRESIDENT PARALLELING THOSE REPORTED EMBTEL 328.

PRESIDENT SAID CCNE HAD PLACED ENTIRELY DIFFERENT SLANT ON
VIEWS OF ASIAN PEOPLES. THEY ARE DISTURBED AND SCARED. SAID US
STATEMENT ON OUR FOREKNOWLEDGE AND OUR REAFFIRMATION OF OUR
DEFENSE COMMITMENT COULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY GOVT AND LEADERS
BUT NOT BY THE PEOPLE. HE SAID NO AMOUNT OF TALK OR EXPLANATION
COULD NEUTRALIZE THE TREMENDOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MORALE EFFECT
THAT THE CCNE HAD ON SURROUNDING NATIONS. HE SAID US POLICY
STATEMENTS COULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY EUROPEAN NATIONS BUT COULD
NOT BE SOLD HERE ON TAIWAN AS THIS IS A SMALL ISLAND AND COULD
BE OBLITERATED WITH A FEW WEAPONS. HE SAID THE REPUBLIC OF
CHINA AND HIMSELF, PRESIDENT CHIANG, WERE THE PRINCIPAL
TARGETS OF CHICOMS, THAT THEY REPRESENTED A SMALL NATION
CLOSE TO CHINA AND COULD BE WIPED OUT IN ONE ATTACK.

SECRET

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TAB 1 341

B1
C1

overhead by TWA

SECRET

-2- 347, OCTOBER 24, 7 PM, FROM TAIPEI

HE SAID AN ATTACK ON TAIWAN WOULD LEAVE THE ISLAND DESOLATED AND US RETALIATION WOULD BE TOO LATE.

PRESENTED EXCELLENT CASE FOR US DETERRENT CAPABILITY AND HIS SUCCESS IN PREVENTING NUCLEAR ATTACK BY SOVIETS ON

PAGE THREE RUASTP 10 S E C R E T

EUROPE AND THE US SAID SOVIET THREAT TO US FAR GREATER FOR MANY YEARS THAN PRESENT CHICOM THREAT TO TAIWAN AND THAT US HAD NEVER BEEN ATTACKED AND NEVER WOULD BE BECAUSE OF SOVIET FEAR OF OBLITERATION IN RETALIATION. SAID CHICOM THREAT NOT NEARLY SO GREAT AND OUR DEFENSE COMMITMENTS TO GRC SHOULD AFFORD EQUAL PROTECTION AGAINST ATTACK EVER HAPPENING.

PRESIDENT, HOWEVER, DISCOUNTED US WILLINGNESS TO RETALIATE, PARTICULARLY IF SUCH AN ATTACK WAS OPPOSED BY EUROPEAN ALLIES OF THE US, AND CHICOM KNEW THIS, AND WOULD USE THEIR NUCLEAR SUCCESS TO EXPLOIT ALL ASIAN NATIONS. SAID THOSE NATIONS WEAK IN ALLEGIANCE TO THE WEST WOULD NOW SHIFT TO COMMUNIST CAMP AND COMMUNIST PARTIES IN OTHER NATIONS WOULD BE STRENGTHENED.

PRESIDENT SAID ~~SOVIET AMBITION WAS TO BURY MAO TSE-TUNG AND THEY KNEW THAT THE ONLY MAN CAPABLE OF LEADING CHINESE PEOPLES WAS HIMSELF, PRESIDENT CHIANG.~~

HE SAID SPEAKING AS ONE FRIEND TO ANOTHER THAT IF THE US HAD FOR THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA THE FIRM FRIENDSHIP THEY PROFESSED SHE COULD PROVIDE THEM NOW WITH THE NECESSARY MEANS TO DESTROY THE CHICOM NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS. HE SAID THE US FORCES NOT NEEDED, ONLY EQUIPMENT AND SUPPORT. CHINATS WOULD DO THE JOBS.

PAGE FOUR RUASTP 08 S E C R E T

SAID THIS MUST BE DONE NOW AS A DELAY WOULD PERMIT BUILDUP OF CHICOM NUCLEAR CAPABILITY AND IT WOULD THEN BE TOO LATE. COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT SEEMED OBSESSED WITH THE IDEA THAT US DETERRENT CAPABILITY WILL NOT CONVINCE ASIAN PEOPLES OF THEIR

SECRET

SECRET

-3- 347, OCTOBER 24, 7 PM, FROM TAIPEI

FREEDOM FROM ATTACK BY CHICOMS. HE FEELS THAT THEY ARE CLOSE AND US FAR AWAY THUS HE PERSONALLY AND REPUBLIC OF CHINA ARE PRINCIPAL TARGETS OF CHICOMS AND WILL BE FIRST TARGET TO BE ATTACKED WHEN CAPABILITY DEVELOPED AND THAT THEREAFTER US RETALIATORY ACTIONS WILL BE TOO LATE.

HE SAID US FEARS OF SOVIET RETALIATION IN CASE OF CHINAT ATTACK ON MAINLAND WERE UNFOUNDED. HE PROPOSED THAT THE US SHOULD TAKE ACTION NOW IN THE MATTER OF US SUPPORT TO CHINATS TO ENABLE THEM TO DESTROY CHICOM NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS. SAID ASIAN NATIONS WOULD APPROVE SUCH ACTION AS REMOVING SOURCE OF THREAT THEMSELVES.

WE ALL NOTED IN PRESIDENT A RATHER INTENSE FEELING OF FRUSTRATION AND ANXIETY AND BELIEVE THIS DUE THE SUDDENNESS OF CCNE WHICH HE HAD HERETOFORE DISCOUNTED AS OCCURRING WITHIN NEXT THREE YEARS, AND THAT IT MAY SUBSIDE (IN ABSENCE OF ANOTHER TIST) DUE ALSO TO WEAKENING EFFECTION HIS BASIC AMBITION OF RETURN TO MAINLAND.

[] BRIEFING HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN STRENGTHENING GRC CONFIDENCE IN US []

NEAR VERBATIM TEXT FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.

GP-1

WRIGHT

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