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... defense of Formosa. Quemoy is about 110 miles from Formosa and the Matsus are about the same distance from the port of Keelung in northern Formosa.

The mainland coast opposite Formosa from Wenchow to the north to Swatow to the south is extremely rugged, with thousands of small islands and hundreds of bays and small streams. Amoy and Foochow are just two small ports in this coastline.

It is easily possible to assemble the thousands of junks that would be needed for an invasion of Formosa and the Pescadores while bypassing Amoy and Foochow.

Indeed, the fact that Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek has placed 60,000 to 70,000 of his best troops on Quemoy and 15,000 to 20,000 on the Matsus weakens the defense of Formosa substantially and provides an invitation to bypass the islands.

The truth is that Formosa is in no danger of invasion until far in the future when the Red Chinese have a substantial naval force, landing ships and air support. The movement of hundreds of thousands of men across 100 miles of water to land on a defended coast is an operation of the scope of the initial landings by the United States on the Normandy coast of France.

So long as the United States Seventh Fleet is in readiness to move into the Formosa straits and the Pacific Air Force is ready to operate there, no invasion of Formosa is possible, regardless of the fate of the offshore islands.

Nevertheless, former President Eisenhower declared that the Formosa resolution was applicable to the situation when the Chinese ...

