

INFORMATION REPORT

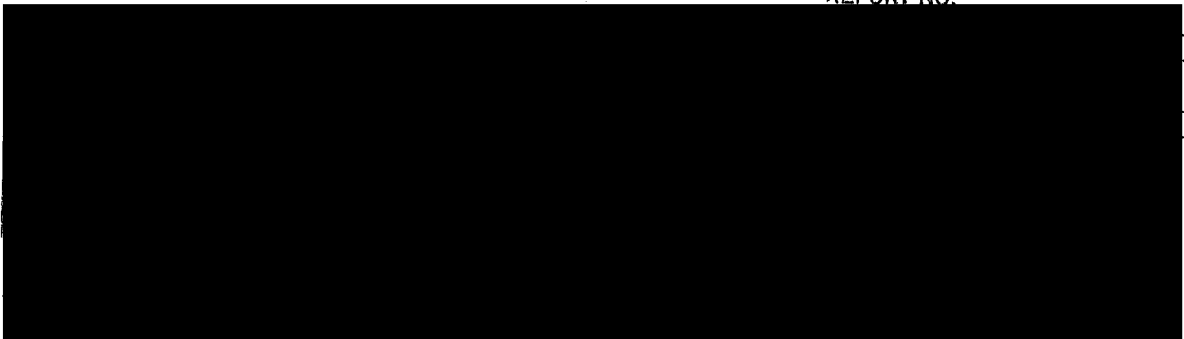
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SUBJECT Chinese Nationalist Ban on Free China

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1. A recent issue of Free China, a weekly magazine published by HU Shih, contained an article, "Do Not Induce the People to Commit Crimes," which condemned the methods used by the Taiwan Pacification Headquarters in the investigation of its cases. LEI Chen (李振), right-hand man of WANG Shih-chi, Secretary General of the President's Office, was responsible for the editorial side of the publication. When the paper was closed by government order because of the article, sentries were posted outside LEI's residence, where Free China was published.
2. LEI contacted high government officials, including WANG Shih-chi, to protest the closing of the paper. As a result, the Taiwan Pacification Headquarters withdrew its guards from the premises, insisting, however, that the magazine apologize. LEI complied with this demand, but he appealed to HU Shih when he did so. In response, HU resigned from the magazine and wrote an article in which he charged the government with being undemocratic. Premier CH'EN Ch'eng ordered the immediate publication of HU's article and wrote an apology to accompany it in which he welcomed constructive criticism of the government. General PENG Meng-chi (彭孟緝), commander in chief of the Taiwan Pacification Headquarters, was severely reprimanded for the inappropriate measures taken against the magazine.
3. Even though the case has been closed officially, the issue has caused a stir among educated Chinese. The incident grew out of a conflict between WANG Shih-chi's followers and those of CH'EN Ch'eng. In this incident CH'EN was forced to back down in order to obtain the sympathy of the outside world.

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