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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
3 February 1955

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State Dept. review completed

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Offshore Island Situation

USAF, DIA review(s) completed.

General

The US Far East Air Force reports that the presence of MIG-17 jet fighters at Chiahsing airfield, 45 miles southwest of Shanghai, has been confirmed. These are the first such planes identified in Communist China.

The MIG-17 is faster and can fly at higher altitudes than the MIG-15. Its combat radius--about 400 miles--is approximately 50 miles greater than the MIG-15.

Based at Chiahsing, the MIG-17's are within range of the fighting near the Tachens.

Tachens

On 31 January, Chinese Communist artillery on Ichiang fired 28 rounds at Chinghsu, an unoccupied islet 2-1/2 miles northwest of Upper Tachen. There has been recent evidence of Chinese Communist patrols landing on Chinghsu. The Communists may plan to occupy this island and use it as a post for observation of the Tachens.

On the evening of 31 January an unescorted Nationalist LSM with supplies for the Tachens was intercepted 35 miles southeast of Tachen by six Communist patrol craft. The LSM was forced to retire to the southeast. The Tachen defense command ordered the LSM again to attempt entry. It was attacked again, however, and was forced to return to Nanchishan. This illustrates the unchallenged Chinese Communist control of Tachen waters and the extreme difficulty of supplying the Nationalist garrison on Tachens.

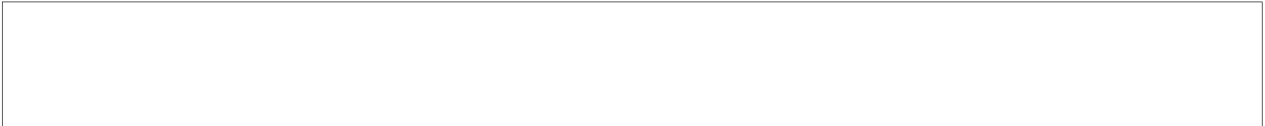
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By:	<input type="text"/>

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Matsus

Negative.

Quemoys

Negative.

Prospects for Cease-fire

Radio Peiping has remained silent as to whether Communist China will accept an invitation to send representatives to take part in the UN debate on current hostilities in the off-shore islands area. However, the barrage of attacks on the New Zealand proposal continued.

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