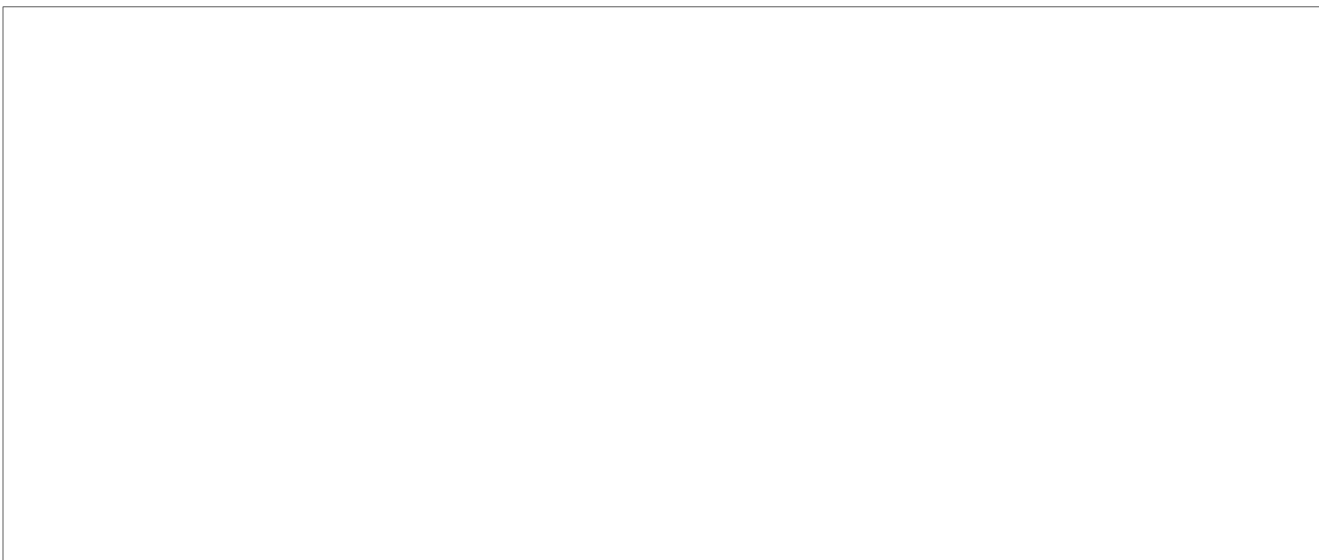


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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
11 February 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)
SUBJECT: Offshore Island Situation

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Tachen

A Chinese Nationalist Defense Ministry spokesman announced on 11 February that Taipei plans to defend Nanchishan, 85 miles southwest of the Tachens. This island is vulnerable to a Chinese Communist attack.

The Tachen evacuation is expected to be completed Saturday or Sunday despite high winds and rough seas which have slowed down operations. Bad weather is expected for the next 24 hours, but winds will decrease in the Tachen area on Saturday.

Matsus

The Nationalist Defense Ministry reported that 22 Communist patrol craft and 600 junks had been spotted along the China coast opposite the Matsus on 11 February. The Nationalists requested permission to bomb the concentration, which they

PACOM Review Completed

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thought might have been assembled for a Matsu invasion. Permission was withheld, pending detailed air reconnaissance of the Communist vessels. The number of ships reported are the numbers usually found in this area.

The Matsu commander has since reported "no enemy activity," although his air reconnaissance has been hampered by poor weather. Two Nationalist destroyers and three destroyer escorts have been alerted to speed to the Matsus if so ordered.

Quemoy

MAAG at Taipei expects that the Chinese Communists will attempt next to take Quemoy, after occupying the Tachens. MAAG bases its belief on recently increased Communist preparations, including heavy vehicular traffic and an increase in artillery positions.

This activity does not necessarily imply that the Communists will make an early attempt to invade the Quemoy. Probing action, aimed at testing for US reactions, will probably be undertaken first.

HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON
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