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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
26 February 1955

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

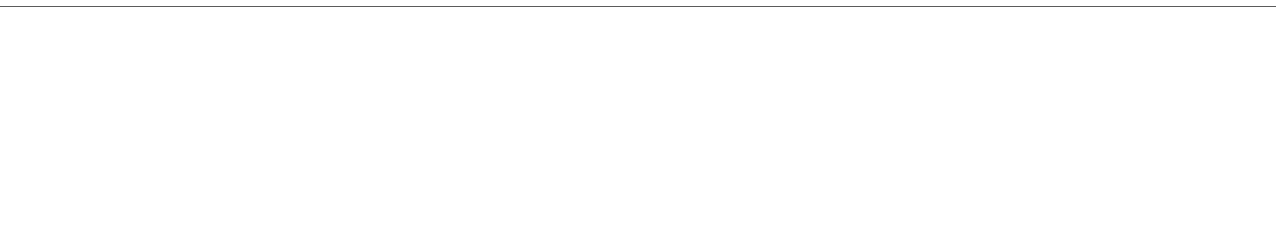
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General

According to a ministry of national defense communique reported by the Taipei press, a mixed fleet of 11 Chinese Communist gunboats and junks shelled Wuchiu island, midway between the Matsus and Quemoy, near midnight Far East time on 25 February. Fire was returned by the Nationalist guerrilla garrison and the attacking ships allegedly "fled toward the north." There has been no confirmation of this reported attack.

Military activity in other offshore islands continues at a low level.

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Matsu

Negative.

Wuchiu

Press reports of Communist shelling of the Wuchiu islands on 25 February suggest Peiping may be planning an early invasion of Wuchiu. Wuchiu lies about fifteen miles off the coast, midway between the Matsu group and Quemoy. It is garrisoned by an estimated 800 Nationalist guerrilla troops. Last activity reported in the Wuchiu area was a similar Communist naval bombardment of the islands on 26 November 1954.

Quemoy

Nationalist plans to increase the strength of the Quemoy garrison are being carried out. A battery of four 155mm artillery pieces arrived at Quemoy from Formosa on 24 February. The Nationalists plan to bring all units on Quemoy up to full strength

PACOM Review Completed

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during March, adding an estimated 10,000 regulars to the garrison there. Current strength consists of about 54,000 regulars and 1,500 guerrillas.

Weather

Forecast for the next 48 hours is cloudy, changing to partly cloudy with morning coastal fog. Winds are between 5 and 8 knots; the sea is slight.

HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON  
Assistant Director,  
Current Intelligence

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