

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY China (Taiwan)

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SUBJECT Interview with General Li Tsung-jen/
His Relations with Dr Hu Shih

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1. I interviewed Vice President Li Tsung-jen at his private residence in Riverdale, New York, for over an hour [redacted]. The last time I visited with him was in April 1951. He is still living in the same rented house with his wife and Chinese maid and appeared in good health. He said he has not been away from New York because of his inability to drive a car or to speak English. Apparently, however, he continues to receive private reports from his sources in Hong Kong concerning the China mainland and Taiwan, but, he said, he has not corresponded with his former Kwangsi military colleague, General Pai Chung-hsi, who he says is being kept under surveillance on Taiwan by the Generalissimo's secret police force.
2. I found Li's attitude towards Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek still very critical and he was more outspoken this time than on previous occasions when I visited him. He insisted that the Generalissimo is still the main stumbling block to Chinese national unity and that he /Chiang Kai-shek/ kept only those people who "obeyed him". Li cited several past instances when officials were forced out of office because they disobeyed or questioned his orders. Li sees no hope or future for the Nationalist Government on the mainland. He believes that if Chiang Kai-shek invaded the mainland he would not find any support from the common people; they still remember his administration. He further insisted that many of the former Kuomintang members and officials of the Nationalist Government who defected to the Peiping regime would not re-defect and support a Nationalist invasion of the mainland. Li said these former Nationalists were people who had been persecuted by Chiang for the past 20 years, they would certainly never rally around Chiang again should he re-appear on the mainland. Li did not mention what type of support or lack of support Chiang might get from the anti-Communist guerrillas on the mainland.
3. While Li gave a virtual blanket indictment of the Taiwan Government, he admitted that not all the people on the island were "bad". The only hope and salvation Li saw in the future of China was still in a "third force" to be composed of independent, liberal, and democratic elements. He did not mention any particular individual or group in or out of the government who could meet these qualifications. However, he did say that some of these future leaders must come from the younger generation, many of whom are still unknown and have never participated in government or public activities. He did not anticipate any early solution for China.

(b)(3)

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(b)(3)

4. Li was depressed because he could not say when he could "go home". He indicated that he did not plan to leave the US in the near future, and scouted reports from Indochina that he would direct the anti-Communist forces in South China when an all-out invasion is launched. (b)(3)
5. Li also related to me a story about Governor Thomas E Dewey's recent visit to Taiwan; he said the information came from [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)
President Chiang Kai-shek's office there. Li's informant said the Generalissimo was very displeased with Governor Dewey and accorded him a chilly reception. The Generalissimo blames Mr John Foster Dulles for failure to include Nationalist China in the San Francisco Japanese Peace Conference. He is said to have told Governor Dewey that since Mr Dulles was his advisor on foreign affairs he [Dewey] should have persuaded Mr Dulles to invite Nationalist China to San Francisco. Governor Dewey is said to have explained to the Generalissimo that at that time Mr Dulles was working for the Truman administration and the Generalissimo should therefore not put the entire blame on the Republicans or Mr Dulles personally.
6. Dr Hu Shih, former Ambassador to the US, has decided against seeing General Li Tsung-jen. He told me that he has no interest in a "third force" or in Li personally. He said that if he had a meeting with Li the news would be circulated and it might be interpreted in Taiwan that he [Hu] was plotting with Li to form an opposition party against the Generalissimo.

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