

CONFIDENTIAL  
Department of State

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

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ACTION EA-12

TAIPEI 00182 100422Z

8287

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-09 SOE-02 DODE-00  
DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 SAS-02 H-01  
PA-01 ICA-11 /134 W

-----114900 102027Z /43

R 100417Z JAN 79  
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0611  
INFO USLO PEKING  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
COMUSTDC TAIPEI TW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 00182

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 12065: GDS 1/10/85 (MARTIN, G. EUGENE) OR-P  
TAGS : PEPR, PINT, TW  
SUBJECT : THE NUCLEAR OPTION AGAIN

REF : 78 TAIPEI 8641

1. DESPITE REPEATED HIGH-LEVEL STATEMENTS BY THE HIGHEST GONT OFFICIALS THAT TAIWAN WOULD NEVER DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THE ISSUE CONTINUES TO SURFACE PERIODICALLY. THE NEWSPAPER TA HUA WAN PAO REPORTED ON A SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION IN ITS DECEMBER 31 ISSUE. CHANG I-CHUNG (1728/0001/0022), A CONVENER OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE OF THE CONTROL YUAN IS QUOTED AS URGING NUCLEAR WEAPON DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH TAIWAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES SIGNED THE CONVENTION NOT TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS, MANY OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE SUCCEEDED IN DEVELOPING THEIR NUCLEAR WEAPONS SECRETLY AND THAT "WE NEED NOT KEEP THE PROMISE STRICTLY AND SUFFER." CHANG ADDED THAT MATERIAL (I. E. PLUTONIUM) MIGHT BE PURCHASED FROM "THE THIRD WORLD" AND THAT SUCH WEAPONS WERE FEASIBLE AND EFFECTIVE DETERRENTS.

2. OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE SYMPOSIUM OPPOSED NUCLEAR WEAPONS, ONE ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY WERE NOT IMPORTANT IN THE "TOTAL WAR" WAGED AGAINST THE PRC IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, DIPLOMATIC AND HUMAN RIGHTS AREAS. OTHERS OPPOSED NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON THE GROUNDS - FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED IN THE PAST - THAT THE "ENEMY" IS THE SMALL GROUP OF COMMUNISTS IN PEKING, NOT THE PEOPLE OF THE MAINLAND AND THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS WOULD HURT INNOCENT COMPATRIOTS.

3. CCK'S NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE CALLED FOR SELF-RELIANCE AND THE AUGMENTATION OF "NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS" TO STRENGTHEN DEFENSE, BUT HE DID NOT MENTION NUCLEAR WEAPONS. NEITHER DID PREMIER SUN IN HIS JANUARY 8 SPEECH AT A KMT MEETING ALTHOUGH HE URGED A STRENGTHENED DEFENSE CAPABILITY.

4. COMMENT: WE EXPECT THIS DISCUSSION WILL CONTINUE BETWEEN THOSE WHO BELIEVE TAIWAN SHOULD DEVELOP ANY WEAPON TO DEFEND ITSELF AND THOSE WHO STOP SHORT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WE BELIEVE THE GONT HAS NOT CHANGED ITS POLICY IN THIS REGARD ALTHOUGH IT WILL CERTAINLY WISH AT LEAST TO LEAVE SOME AMBIGUITY ABOUT KEEPING ITS OPTIONS OPEN TO ENHANCE ITS CHANCES OF ADEQUATE SECURITY GUARANTEES FROM THE U. S. AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY. DESPITE ITS FIRMLY EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS, WE ALSO BELIEVE THE GONT IS NOT ADVERSE TO UNCERTAINTY ABROAD, ESPECIALLY IN THE PRC, OVER ITS NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. THE POTENTIAL HAS MANY OF THE ADVANTAGES OF THE REAL BOMB. BROWN

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

Retain Class'n  Change to \_\_\_\_\_

Declassify in part and excise as shown

EO 12958, 25X( ) ( ) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Declassify  After \_\_\_\_\_

With concurrence \_\_\_\_\_ (not)(obtained)

IPS by *[Signature]* Date \_\_\_\_\_

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