

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

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Department of State

N191
INCOMING
TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 OF 02 AIT TA 01804 00 OF 02 241117Z
ACTION EAP-00

1031

AIT TA 01804 00 OF 02 241117Z

1031

PRESS RELEASE ON THE CASE. THE RELEASE WAS TO BE
MADE PUBLIC EARLY THIS MORNING (TAIPEI TIME).

INFO	LOG-00	ADG-00	INR-10	SS-00	OIC-02	CIAE-00	EB-00
	DODI-00	N-01	MSC-01	IO-19	NSCI-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00
	NA-00	L-03	TRSE-00	PH-10	EPA-01	AIT-02	PA-01
	OMB-01	INRE-00	OES-09	ACDA-12	USIE-00	SP-02	DOLE-00
	NAC-02	<u>SNP-01</u>	CEO-01	C-01	PRS-01	P-02	T-01

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O 240947Z MAR 87
FM AIT TAIPEI
TO AIT WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CONFIDENTIAL TAIPEI 01804

FOR AIT/W ALSO FOR EAP/RA/TC AND DES/WIS FOR
WILKINSON AND BURKART

CINCPAC FOR FPA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, MHUC, US, TV
SUBJECT: NYT ARTICLE RETURNS CHANG HSIEN-YI CASE
TO HEADLINES

REF: TAIPEI 1623

RTIC
SB
CS
ST
BY
cc: [unclear]

1. (C) SUMMARY. THE CHANG HSIEN-YI CASE TODAY
RETURNED TO TAIPEI'S FRONT PAGES. STORIES REPORTING
THE MARCH 23 NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON THE CASE
APPEARED IN ALL MAJOR PAPERS. THE INDEPENDENCE
MORNING POST FEATURED THE MOST EXTENSIVE COVERAGE,
INCLUDING A STORY FILED BY THEIR REPORTER IN
WASHINGTON AND A REPORT IN WHICH A TAIWAN RESIDENT
WHO CLAIMED HE WAS A FRIEND OF CHANG STATED THAT
CHANG TOLD HIM THE USG WANTS CHANG TO TRAVEL TO THE
PRC. KMT LEGISLATOR CHAO SHAO-KANG, IN A RADIO
INTERVIEW THIS MORNING, LAMENTED THE SHUTDOWN
OF TAIWAN'S RESEARCH REACTOR AND COMPLAINED OF
ALLEGED U.S. SPYING.



B1

MEANWHILE, AIT IS RECEIVING NUMEROUS
REQUESTS FROM THE MEDIA FOR COMMENTS ON THE NYT
ARTICLE. WE ARE CONTINUING TO REFER CALLERS TO
THE DEPARTMENT PRESS STATEMENT, STATING THAT WE
HAVE NO INFORMATION HERE. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) AFTER BEGINNING TO FADE IN RECENT DAYS FROM
THE PUBLIC SPOTLIGHT, THE CHANG HSIEN-YI CASE HAS
RETURNED TO TAIPEI'S HEADLINES. REPORTS OF THE MARCH
23 NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON THE CASE MADE FRONT PAGE
HEADLINES LAST NIGHT IN THE UNITED EVENING NEWS AND
IN TODAY'S INDEPENDENCE MORNING POST (IMP), AND WAS
REPORTED PROMINENTLY IN SEVERAL OTHER PAPERS. THE
IMP, WHICH ALONG WITH THE INDEPENDENCE EVENING POST
HAS BEEN CARRYING THE MOST SENSATIONAL STORIES ABOUT
THE CASE, FEATURED THE MOST EXTENSIVE COVERAGE.

3. (U) TODAY'S IMP RAN A STORY SUBMITTED BY ITS
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT CLAIMING THAT ALTHOUGH STATE
DEPARTMENT SPOKESWOMAN PHYLLIS OAKLEY DECLINED TO
COMMENT ON WHETHER THE MARCH 23 NYT ARTICLE WAS
CORRECT, THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS PREPARING A NEW

4. (U) IN A SEPARATE FRONT-PAGE STORY, THE IMP
CLAIMED THAT CHANG HSIEN-YI HAD PHONED A FRIEND IN
TAIWAN AND CONFIRMED THAT AIT HAD HELPED CHANG GET TO
THE UNITED STATES. THE STORY ALLEGED THAT CHANG HAD
MAINTAINED CONTACT WITH AIT FOR A LONG TIME AND THAT
HE HAD BECOME DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE NUCLEAR ENERGY
RESEARCH DIVISION WITH U.S. ASSISTANCE. THE STORY
ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE U.S. IS NOW PRESSURING CHANG TO
TRAVEL TO THE PRC.

5. (U) KMT SUPPLEMENTAL LEGISLATIVE YUAN MEMBER CHAO
SHAO-KANG, WHO HAS REPEATEDLY CRITICIZED ALLEGED AIT
SPY ACTIVITIES (SEE REFTEL), TODAY APPEARED ON ICRT,
THE LOCAL ENGLISH-LANGUAGE RADIO STATION TO FIRE
ANOTHER BROADSIDE. CHAO LAMENTED THAT THE SHUT-DOWN
OF TAIWAN'S RESEARCH REACTOR WOULD DAMAGE PEACEFUL
NUCLEAR RESEARCH EFFORTS. HE ADDED THAT 14 THE PAST
PEOPLE HERE USED TO BE AFRAID OF PRC SPIES; NOW
EVERYONE HAS TO WORRY ABOUT U.S. SPIES.

6. (U) THE UNITED DAILY NEWS HAD ALREADY REPORTED ON
MARCH 18 THAT TAIWAN ATOMIC ENERGY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN
YEN CHEN-HSING SAID THE RESEARCH REACTOR HAD BEEN
SHUT DOWN AND THAT THE HEAVY WATER HAD BEEN REMOVED.
ON MARCH 24 ICRT REPORTED THAT THE REACTOR WOULD BE
"REMODELED" FROM A HEAVY WATER REACTOR TO A LIGHT
WATER REACTOR.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: HOWARD H LANGE
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 23 MAR 2012
DATE/CASE ID: 09 OCT 2008 200702086

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