

*External Affairs*

After the close of world war II China became the centre of intensive communist activity and intrigue. Moscow-trained agents, communist agents, led bands of guerrillas in open violence and civil war against the constituted government of that country. Deluded or perfidious men in high places in America and other countries and, I might say, in some of the great newspapers of the world, went along with the communists in grossly misrepresenting the situation in China as an agrarian revolution—a peaceful, agrarian revolution, and to condition the American mind to accept the downfall of Chiang Kai-shek and his nationalist government without any question.

They did their work mighty well, and the people of America were made to believe a lie. And in their deluded state of mind they allowed China and its 400 million freedom-loving people to be pushed—and I say "pushed" advisedly—into the hands of the communists.

Chiang Kai-shek and his anti-communist forces were defeated in China in 1949 very largely because of treachery. They retired to Formosa, which was an island held for quite a number of years by the Japanese, who prior to world war II had spent vast amounts of money and effort to make Formosa the most important air and naval base in the western Pacific. Today there are on the island of Formosa and on the nearby islands nearly 600,000 anti-communist Chinese soldiers who are friendly to the western world. To keep up their morale for long years of absence from their mainland homes, families and interests is a big problem. But they represent the only available anti-communist Asiatic force in all the Pacific area. That is something we have to keep in mind. No one can identify that 600,000 with the government of Chiang Kai-shek and any treachery Chiang Kai-shek may have committed.

The sovereignty of Formosa rests in the hands of the 48 nations which signed the peace treaty with Japan in 1951, and Chiang Kai-shek governs the country on their behalf. There has been a great change in American attitude toward Formosa since Mr. Acheson sent that secret telegram in 1949 I told you about suggesting that Formosa was of no special military significance. By June 27, 1950, President Truman had evidently come to realize that Mr. Acheson's appraisal was wrong, because on that date he made this statement by way of an explanation of United States interest in Formosa:

In these circumstances the occupation of Formosa by the communist forces would be a direct threat to the security of the Pacific area and to United States forces performing their lawful and necessary functions in that area.

Not long after that statement was made General Douglas MacArthur, who probably knew more about Pacific defence than any man living, discussed the military significance of Formosa in a message to the national encampment of veterans of foreign wars. Speaking of the United States chain of Pacific island defences he had this to say:

Our line of defence is a natural one and can be maintained with a minimum of military effort and expense. It envisions no attack against anyone, nor does it provide the bastions essential for offensive operations; but properly maintained would be of invincible defence against aggression. If we hold this line, we may have peace—lose it and war is inevitable.

May I point out here that Formosa is one of the key parts of the chain of Pacific island defences. General MacArthur made this further statement on May 3, 1951:

I believe that from our standpoint we practically lose the Pacific ocean if we give up or lose Formosa. Formosa should not be allowed to fall into red hands.

There was no equivocation about that. It is natural for us, of course, in the light of those statements, to ask how safe Canada would be if the United States lost the Pacific. It is most natural. Today Secretary of State Dulles and President Eisenhower are making it quite clear the United States believes Formosa and the nearby islands are of tremendous strategic importance to the defence of America, which of course includes Canada. They differentiate between Formosa and the government of Chiang Kai-shek, which it is clear some other people do not.

Last December the United States completed a treaty with Chiang Kai-shek known as the Formosa defence treaty. It was ratified by the United States Senate on February 9 of this year. Under that treaty Formosa becomes a defence post, a part of the United States Pacific defence system. The United States has pledged to protect Formosa and the Pescadores islands even to the extent of an all-out fight for them, if it is necessary. It is expected that the United States will build land and air bases at some time in the near future. The treaty says nothing at all about Matsu, Quemoy and Nanchi, the islands still in the hands of the Chinese nationalists guarding the entrance to mainland harbours.

Most of the controversy about Far Eastern policy at the present time seems to revolve around what should happen in connection with these islands, and a good deal of foolish talk goes on about it. But one fact should be kept in mind above everything else about those islands. They are important to red China only as a jumping-off place for an attack against Formosa. There is nothing certain today of course about what the United States will do, whether in fact she will