

Chiang Gets Final Chance In Impending Formosa Battle

Editor's Note: Seymour Topping of the Associated Press China staff is on leave in the United States after covering the China civil war for three years. He has just returned from a trip during which he spoke to Washington officials and experts elsewhere about the far east. Topping writes from first hand knowledge gained on the war fronts and behind both the communist and nationalist lines. He will return soon to post at Hong Kong.

By SEYMOUR TOPPING

San Francisco, Dec. (AP)—The impending battle for Formosa will give Chiang Kai-Shek his final chance to rally nationalist resistance. Successful defense of the big island against communist attack would encourage new American support of the nationalist cause.

Far East experts believe the Nationalists have the material means to hold for a long time the key base off the South China coast.

A very big "IF" centers around Chiang's ability to inspire the will to resist Red attack. He was not able to do that during the last four years of civil war fought on the mainland.

State department refusal to endorse a program of further help to the Nationalists is based upon the contention that their defeats are not due to material shortages. The white paper published last summer was meant to prove that. Inadequate leadership, both administrative and inspirational, was cited as the real lack.

The battle for Formosa will offer Chiang Kai-Shek an ideal opportunity to show there has been a change.

If communist attacks are turned back, the powerful American advocates of further aid to the Nationalists will be given ammunition for an attack on the current state department policy. A minimum objective would be release by President Truman of the \$75,000,000 earmarked by congress for China aid.

There is plenty of reason to believe that successful defense of Formosa would result in renewal of a U.S. aid program. Aside from congressional pressures, American policy makers are worried about strategic Formosa falling into communist hands. But political considerations have forced them to shelve plans for active intervention.

For the present, state department officials are stressing that Chiang has everything he needs for the immediate defense of Formosa which is the new seat for the refugee Nationalist government.

One hundred miles of open

sea separate Formosa from the Red held coast. Chiang has a small navy and air force—that are unopposed—to hit communist amphibious attacks launched on junks and other small vessels. When the winds are right, junks can reach Formosa's long coastline overnight.

Defense of Formosa will depend finally upon availability of effective mobile forces that can be rushed to points where Red landings are made. For this job, Chiang has over 100,000 combat troops adequately armed and equipped to defend the 13,890 square mile territory.

On the other side of the ledger, Chiang has to worry about 6,000,000 hostile Formosans. Nationalist exploitation and mismanagement of the rich island has made the population extremely susceptible to Red infiltration. Some 1,200,000 mainland Chinese on Formosa are looked upon as carpetbaggers.

To get the Formosans on his

side, Chiang will have to institute political reforms and rehabilitate the island's economy.

Among his own troops and officials, Chiang will have to wipe out the cancerous corruption, inefficiency and bickering which spelled Nationalist defeat on the mainland.

The Nationalists hope that Formosa assaults can some day be launched against the mainland. The assaults would be made in coordination with guerrilla operations behind the Red lines and from a mountain base in the far west province of Sikang.

What hope the Nationalists have of a comeback seems to lie well into the future and is tied in with what success the communists experience.

If the Reds fail to solve the basic economic problems of the Chinese, the raw power for counter-revolution will be generated and an opportunity offered to the Nationalists or someone else to harness it.

Mental Health Research Need

Washington, Dec. 14 (AP)—Sen. John J. Sparkman, (D., Ala.), said today testimony that one child out of every 10 is destined for mental trouble is "impressive evidence" of the need for more research on child mental health.

He made the statement as Rep. Robert F. Rich, (R., Pa.), denounced the testimony as "terrorism" aimed at frightening parents into supporting the administration's health insurance program.

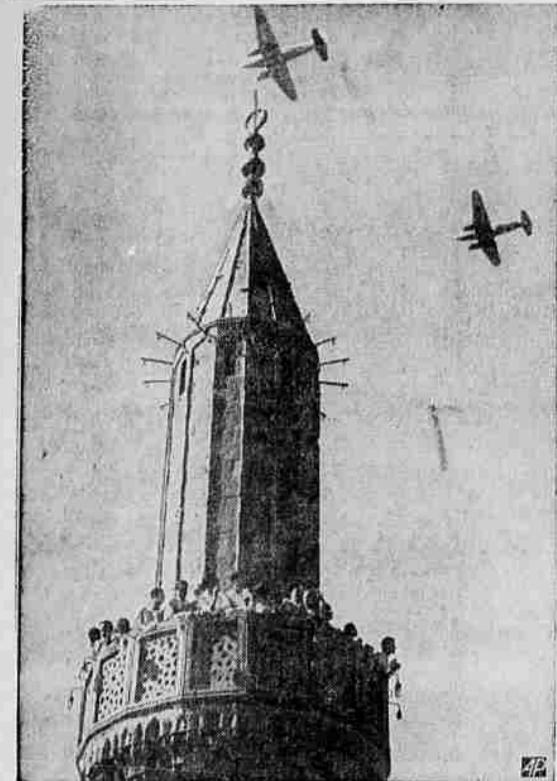
Rich demanded that acting Federal Security Administrator John L. Thurston furnish congress "the information on which he based his alarming statement" yesterday before Sparkman's joint economic subcommittee on low income families.

Thurston said the figures were "estimated by some authorities." He did not identify them.

Rich also said everyone in the federal government should be given a mental examination "starting at the White House and going right on down."

He said psychiatrists should examine "every senator and every congressman and every federal worker to find out if they are of sound mind."

Paralytic Robbed
Lynn, Mass., Dec. 14 (AP)—An armed man robbed a paralytic last night as he sat helpless in his specially constructed wheel chair. Joseph Mangan, 58, told police the gunman stuck a pistol in his back as he wheeled along a city street and robbed him of \$24. Mangan propelled his car, recently given him by friends, to police headquarters to report the robbery.



Egypt's Air Defenses—Modern two-motored Egyptian air force warplanes fly over a mosque minaret during a demonstration of Egypt's military and air strength in Cairo.

4 Old-Age Pensioners Burn Recall Petition Against Langlie

Elma, Wash., Dec. 14 (AP)—Four old-age pensioners burned a paper asking a recall election against Governor Arthur B. Langlie today, saying they didn't know what they were doing" when they filed it.

The recall petition was filed last week by Robert Springer, Purl Koehler, Tom Taylor and Oscar Williams. All said they did not read it.

Williams said he was asked to circulate a petition by a member of the Washington State Pension union. He said he understood the petition was merely something about old age pensions and his friend said nothing about the governor to him.

William said he took the paper to three of his friends at a tavern. They also signed it. Then they notarized it and mailed it to the secretary of state's office.

When they discovered they were getting involved in a recall movement, they rushed to Olympia, Wash., yesterday and recalled the recall.

"We want no part of it. We didn't know what we were doing," they said.

In Seattle, meanwhile, the Trade Union Jobs and Security council said it would file formal recall papers tomorrow with between 200 and 300 persons appearing at the state capitol.

The council said it would charge the governor with failure in the administration of laws, particularly the state welfare act.

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