

## U.S. Strength Declared Potent in Formosan Area

Taipei—(U.P.)—American military leaders have never felt better about United States and Nationalist Chinese strength in and around Formosa.

"It is very potent and very impressive," one high-ranking American officer told U. S. Press. "I think we are in a pretty good position, and I think the Communist Chinese know it."

His remarks emphasized what has been going on in Formosa all summer.

The United States has quietly and carefully been building up its own strength and that of its ally, the Nationalist Chinese. This has included warships, new squadrons of jet fighter planes and a constant flow of light and heavy equipment for the Chinese army.

Talks between the United States and Red China at Geneva have had absolutely no effect on this buildup. It can be noted, however, that the U. S. buildup on Formosa is a defensive one in nature. For instance, the Nationalist Chinese are not receiving bombers of any type.

**Front Line Defense**  
The United States apparently feels that in case of trouble it can call upon the long arm of the bomber forces in Okinawa, Guam or the Philippines to carry the punch against Red China.

This buildup on Formosa, officers feel, reflects American plans to knit Formosa into the U. S. Pacific front line defense. The island is strategically located between the Philippines and Okinawa. It is one hour's flying time by jet from Okinawa airfields.

On a clear day it is possible to see the Philippines from the southern tip of Formosa. And U. S. military leaders in this part of the world are not forgetting that it was from Formosan airfields that Japanese bombers launched the blows that once knocked out U. S. airpower in the Philippines.

Also, standing only 100 miles off the China mainland, it would serve as an unsinkable aircraft carrier if real trouble ever broke out between the United States and Red China.

Towards this end Formosan

airfields are at present being extended and supplied with great dumps of fuel and ammunition. It is thought that U. S. fighters and bombers could be operating out of Formosan airfields, within range of every target in vast Red China within a few hours.

### No Ground Troops

There is at present no unit of U. S. ground troops in Formosa. It has been reported that the United States would like to station a token force, say a regiment of Marines on the islands as the U. S. expansion of airfields and naval harbors continues. These troops would, if nothing else, serve as local security for U. S. installation. Nationalist Chinese troops at present furnish protection for U. S. units on the island.

But the Nationalist government has not smiled upon the stationing of U. S. troops in Formosa. It has been unofficially reported that they fear envy among Nationalist soldiers and civilians at the high standard of living of U. S. soldiers.

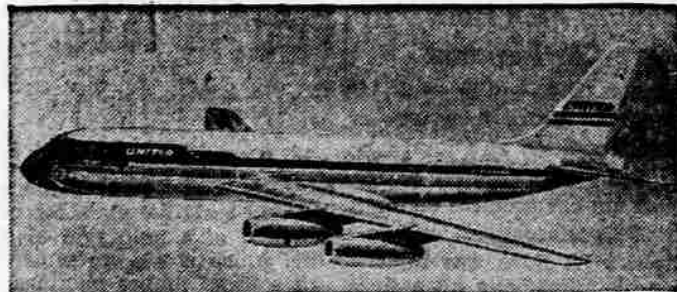
Also, and probably more important, the Nationalists, for political reasons, would dislike having U. S. combat units on the island.

All of this U. S. emphasis on a military buildup in Formosa, of course, comes directly as the result of a similar and equally great military expansion by the Chinese Communists along the South China coast opposite Formosa prefer to call it a "gradual gathering of strength" rather than a "buildup."

It is freely admitted on Formosa that the Communists are becoming increasingly stronger along the coast and have the capability of launching limited attacks at any time.

But at present U. S. military officials here think they have the means to match any Red advantage. And they aim to stay ahead in the race.

One of the larger Great Lakes vessels can haul more than 18,000 tons of iron ore at one time, or 15 times more than the first ore freighter which was designed in 1869.



**JET AIRLINER**—The DC-8, planned by Douglas aircraft as its first jet airliner, is shown above. Thirty of the big craft have been ordered by United Airlines for use on its domestic, long-haul lines. The order will total \$175,000,000. Delivery will begin in May, 1959, and UAL plans to begin service with the planes in November of that year. The planes are designed to cruise at 550 to 575 miles per hour at altitudes of 30,000 to 40,000 feet, and will carry 112 to 140 passengers plus 7,000 pounds of cargo.

## Toll Collection Cheaters Foiled

New Paltz, N. Y. —(U.P.)—The New York State Thruway Authority feels it is on safe footing now—capable of foiling practically ever attempt by toll collectors and drivers to cheat on its revenues.

There are reported to be at least 139 ways in which collectors and truck drivers have cheated toll roads, bridges and tunnels across the nation. But Ben Cooper, a tollgate sleuth, claims he can block them all with the aid of a camera.

The thruway Authority has ordered 218 of the cameras, costing about \$1,500 each. They will be installed at various entry and exit spots along the cross-state expressway.

Each camera takes clear impressions on supersensitive film in dim light and even in foggy weather. It has two lenses. One is trained on the approaching car and the other photographs a code of dots and figures registered on a nearby machine when the toll clerk punches buttons.

The effectiveness of the camera lies in the fact that collectors and motorists have no way of knowing when it is idle and when it is working.

Cooper said he has "come upon at least 139 different tricks" to deprive toll systems of proper revenues, and that "these tricks have been tried by collectors, maintenance men, motorists, or combinations of all three conspiring to split the loot."

## Earth Bulldozes Through Remains From Old Comet

San Francisco—(U.P.)—A California astronomer says the earth is plowing through an "interplanetary gravel bank" left by a comet that passed by some 93 years ago.

But, explained Leon E. Salanave of Morrison Planetarium, it isn't necessary to run for cover. The worst that can come from this astronomical bulldozing is a beautiful shower of shooting stars.

Salanave said the earth crashes through the "gravel bank" every year. The resulting shooting stars are called Perseids because they seem to come from the constellation Perseus. The annual show usually takes place in mid-summer.

## Flag Colored Mail Boxes Mistaken for Trash Cans

San Diego, Calif. — (U.P.) — The order to paint street mail boxes red, white and blue resulted in some confusion here. The patriotic colors are used on city trash cans.

Cases of persons depositing mail in trash cans were reported several years ago when the city trash containers and street mail boxes both were painted green. So the trash can color scheme was changed.

Postmaster William Krenning said city officials have agreed to change back to green trash cans this year so the post office can conform to the new national color scheme for letter boxes.

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