

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 271027

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, TW

SUBJECT: SENATOR MANSFIELD'S TRIP TO PRC

REF: CINCPAC 072146Z

CINCPAC FOR POLAD FOR BUSH

1. FOLLOWING RESPONDS TO SENATOR MANSFIELD'S INTEREST IN HISTORY OF TAIWAN'S STATUS (REFTEL).
2. CHINESE SOURCES REVEAL VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS TO TAIWAN AS EARLY AS SECOND CENTURY AND CHINESE MIGRATION TO ISLAND AS EARLY AS SIXTH CENTURY. THE MONGOL DYNASTY IN THE EARLY FOURTEENTH CENTURY INCORPORATED TAIWAN AS A PROVINCE, BUT ITS CONTROL WAS EXTREMELY TENUOUS. LARGER INFLUX OF CHINESE TO TAIWAN (MAINLY FROM FUKIEN AND KWANGTUNG PROVINCES) TOOK PLACE DURING 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES, DURING WHICH DUTCH, SPANISH, JAPANESE AND CHINESE VARIOUSLY COMPETED FOR CONTROL OF ISLAND. DUTCH ESTABLISHED FORT ON PESCADORES IN 1622, AND AFTER EIGHT-MONTH WAR WITH CHINESE TROOPS REACHED COMPROMISE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 271027

UNDER WHICH THEY ESTABLISHED FORTRESSES AT PRESENT-DAY

ANPING AND TAINAN AND EVACUATED PESCADORES. DUTCH OCCUPIED TAIWAN BETWEEN 1624 AND 1661, DURING WHICH BOTH JAPANESE AND SPANISH CHALLENGES TO THEIR RULE WERE TURNED BACK. DUTCH WERE IN TURN DRIVEN OUT IN 1661 BY CHENG CHENG-KUNG (KOXINGA), WHO USED TAIWAN AS BASE FOR HIS ATTEMPTS TO DEFEAT MANCHUS AND RESTORE MING DYNASTY. CHING DYNASTY GAINED CONTROL OF TAIWAN IN 1683, AND INCORPORATED IT AS PREFECTURE OF FUKIEN PROVINCE. IT WAS MADE SEPARATE PROVINCE IN 1881, IN ATTEMPT TO STRENGTHEN CHINESE CONTROL AFTER JAPANESE PUNITIVE EXPEDITION IN 1874. CHINESE EXERCISED SOVEREIGNTY OVER TAIWAN UNTIL MAY 8, 1895, WHEN, UNDER TERMS OF TREATY OF SHIMONOSEKI, TAIWAN AND PESCADORES WERE CEDED TO JAPAN AS RESULT OF SINO-JAPANESE WAR. CHINESE OFFICIALS ON TAIWAN OPPOSED CESSION AND, WITH COMPLICITY OF CHING GOVERNMENT, IN MAY, 1895 DECLARED REPUBLIC OF TAIWAN. BY OCTOBER, HOWEVER, JAPANESE CONSOLIDATED EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER ISLAND AND FOR FIFTY YEARS ADMINISTERED TAIWAN AS A COLONY UNDER RULE OF APPOINTED GOVERNOR GENERAL.

3. AT CAIRO CONFERENCE IN 1943, THE US AND UK AGREED THAT "ALL TERRITORIES JAPAN HAD STOLEN FROM THE CHINESE, SUCH AS MANCHURIA, FORMOSA AND THE PESCADORES, SHALL BE RESTORED TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA." IN CONFORMITY WITH THIS PLEDGE, GROC RECEIVED SURRENDER OF JAPANESE TROOPS ON TAIWAN IN 1945 AND HAS EFFECTIVELY ADMINISTERED ISLAND SINCE THAT DATE. FOLLOWING COLLAPSE ON MAINLAND, GROC ESTABLISHED PROVISIONAL CAPITAL AT TAIPEI IN DECEMBER, 1949.

4. FOLLOWING OUTBREAK OF KOREAN WAR, US ON JUNE 27, 1950 STATED THAT "DETERMINATION OF THE FUTURE STATUS OF FORMOSA MUST AWAIT THE RESTORATION OF SECURITY IN THE PACIFIC, A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WITH JAPAN OR CONSIDERATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS." IN PEACE TREATIES WITH US AND OTHER ALLIES IN 1951 AND WITH ROC IN 1952, JAPAN RENOUNCED ANY CLAIMS TO TAIWAN AND PESCADORES, BUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PREVAILING US POSITION DID NOT CEDE THESE TERRITORIES TO ANY OTHER ENTITY. UNTIL RECENTLY, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 271027

US POSITION ON SOVEREIGNTY OVER TAIWAN CONTINUED TO BE THAT IT WAS AN UNSETTLED QUESTION SUBJECT TO FUTURE INTERNATIONAL RESOLUTION. IN SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, US "ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ALL CHINESE ON EITHER SIDE OF THE TAIWAN STRAIT MAINTAIN THERE IS BUT ONE CHINA AND THAT TAIWAN IS PART OF CHINA -- (USG) DOES NOT CHALLENGE THAT POSITION." SINCE THAT TIME AS MATTER OF POLICY WE HAVE AVOIDED ANY STATEMENTS ON ISSUE OF SOVEREIGNTY

OVER TAIWAN.

5. ISLAND'S ORIGINAL INHABITANTS IN HISTORICAL ERA
WERE OF MALAY STOCK. THE ABORIGINAL POPULATION WHICH

WAS ORGANIZED ALONG TRIBAL LINES, WAS SYSTEMATICALLY
SLAUGHTERED AND DRIVEN OFF PLAINS INTO MOUNTAINS BY
CHINESE SETTLERS. ABOUT TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND ABORIGINES
NOW LIVE ON TAIWAN. SINIFICATION OF ISLAND DID NOT
REALLY DEVELOP UNTIL INFLUX OF MING REFUGEES FROM CHING
TAKE-OVER OF MAINLAND. AT TIME OF DUTCH OCCUPATION
(1622) CHINESE POPULATION WAS ESTIMATED AT ONLY 25,000.
ON EVE OF JAPANESE OCCUPATION IT NUMBERED MORE THAN
200,000.

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