

Appendix 21 -- Second Message to Compatriots in Taiwan - PRC Defense Minister P'eng Teh-huai (1958)

Source: Peng Teh-huai, Minister of National Defense -- *Peking Review 1, no. 35* (October 28, 1959): p. 5.

October 25, 1958

Compatriots, military and civilian, in Taiwan, Penghu, Quemoy and Matsu:

We are fully aware that the overwhelming majority of you are patriots, and only extremely few among you are willing slaves of the Americans. Compatriots! Chinese problems can only be settled by us Chinese. If they are difficult to settle for the time being, things can be talked over at length. The American political broker Dulles likes to poke his nose into other people's business. He wants to take a hand in the matter of the long-standing dispute between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party, and order Chinese to do this or that, to harm the interests of the Chinese and serve the interests of the Americans. That is to say: step one, to isolate Taiwan; step two, to place Taiwan under trusteeship. If things do not turn out to their liking, they can resort to the most sinister measures. Do you know how General Chang Tsolin met his death? There is a place called Huangkutun in northeast China, and it was there that he was done to death. No imperialist in the world has any conscience. And the American imperialists are especially vicious, at least no better than the Japanese who did Chang Tsolin to death. Compatriots! I advise you to be a little more careful. I advise you not to depend too much on other people, lest all your rights and authority be taken away. To arrange things between our two Parties is very easy. I have already ordered our troops at the Fukien front not to shell the airfield in Quemoy and the wharf, beach and ships at Liaolo Bay on even days of the calendar, so that the compatriots, both military and civilian, on the big and small islands of Greater Quemoy, Lesser Quemoy, Tatan, Erhtan and others may all get sufficient supplies, including food, vegetables, edible oils, fuels and military equipment, to facilitate your entrenchment for a long time to come. If you are short of anything, just say so and we will give it to you. It is time now to turn from foe into friend. Your ships and aircraft should not come on odd days. We will not necessarily conduct shelling on odd days. But you should refrain from conning, to avoid possible losses. In this way, half of each month will be free for transportation, and supplies would not be lacking.

Some of you suspect that we want to undermine the unity between your troops and civilians and between your officers and men. No, compatriots! We hope you will strengthen your unity, so as to act in unison in facing up to the foreigners. Fight-fight-stop-stop, half-fight, half-stop: this is no trick but a normal thing in the present specific circumstances. Our refraining from shelling the airfield, the wharf, the beach and the ships is still conditional on not introducing American escorts. Exception will be taken if there should be escorts. In the Chang-Dulles talks, you have suffered a little loss. Now you have only the right of speaking for "Free China"; in addition, you are still permitted to represent a small part of the overseas Chinese. The Americans have conferred upon you the title of a small China. On October 23, the U.S. Department of State published an interview Dulles had given to a correspondent of a British broadcasting company which was recorded in advance on October 16. The interview was

made public as soon as Dulles took off from Taiwan. Dulles said that he saw a China of the Communists, that, since this country actually exists, he was willing to deal with it, and so on. Thank heaven, our country is seen by an American lord. This is a big China. Under the force of circumstances, the Americans have changed their policy and treated you as a "de facto political unit," that is to say, in fact, not as a country. Such a "de facto political unit" is still needed by the Americans at the initial stage starting from the present time. That means isolating Taiwan. In the second stage, Taiwan is to be placed under trusteeship. Friends of the Kuomintang! Do you not yet sense this danger? Where is the way out?

Please think it over. The document issued after the Chiang-Dulles talks this time was only a communiqué devoid of legal force. It is easy to shake yourselves free, depending on whether you have the determination or not. There is only one China, not two, in the world. On this we agree. All Chinese people, including you and compatriots abroad, absolutely will not allow the American plot forcibly to create two Chinas to come true. The present age is an age full of hope. All patriots have a future and should not be afraid of the imperialists. Of course, we are not advising you to break with the Americans right away. That would be an unrealistic idea. We only hope that you will not yield to American pressure, submit to their every whim and will, lose your sovereign rights, and so finally be deprived of shelter in the world and thrown into the sea. These words of ours are well-intentioned and bear no ill-will. You will come to understand them by and by.