

Appendix 23 -- Mao Interview Concerning the U.S. and Taiwan (1959)

Source: *Current Digest of the Soviet Press* 16, no. 25 (July 15, 1964): 5-6. The article is reprinted from the magazine *Problemy mira i sotsializma* [Problems of peace and socialism], No. 6, in somewhat condensed form.

The Words and Deeds of the Leaders of the Communist Party of China concerning an Interview with Mao Tse-tung.

(By Eduardo Mora Valverde, member of the leadership of the People's Vanguard Party of Costa Rica. *Izvestia*, June 19, p. 2.)

[At a meeting of leaders of a number of Latin American Communist and Workers' Parties with Comrade Mao Tse-tung on March 3, 1959, he declared:

"We have thrown out the North American imperialists from the continent, but they are holding out on Taiwan. We have warned them to get out of there, but they refuse. Perhaps you can suggest some means to us. You know about the events of last year. The island of Quemoy has a population of only 80,000, but it is now known to the entire world. The U.S.A. does not object to the islands of Quemoy and Matsu being given back to us, but in return it wishes to retain Taiwan for itself. This would be an unprofitable deal. We had better wait; let Chiang Kai-shek stay on Quemoy and Matsu, and we shall get them back later, together with the Pescadores and Taiwan. Our territory is spacious, and for the time being we can get along without these islands."

But Mao Tse-tung continued developing his idea, and in the course of the interview another Mao Tse-tung, quite unlike the one we had known before, gradually began to appear before us. His words astonished us. He said: "We do not want conciliation with the U.S.A. The United States must submit to us. Otherwise we do not wish to enter into negotiations with them. It is unimportant if they do not return Taiwan to us for another 100 years. If they do not recognize us, then we have no desire to recognize them either. . . ."