

Appendix 26 -- ROC Foreign Ministry Statement (1971)

Source: *News from China* (New York: Chinese Information Service, May 1, 1971), p. 71.

April 30, 1971

The government of the Republic of China is astounded by Mr. Bray's remarks on the so-called status of Taiwan and the Pescadores and by his proposal for a direct negotiation between the government of the Republic of China and the Peiping regime. Soon after the Chinese government learned of the aforementioned statements, a ranking official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs made enquiry at the embassy of the United States on April 29th.

Subsequently, Foreign Minister Chow Shu-kai asked American Ambassador Walter P. McConaughy for a conference at 11 a.m. on April 30. The Minister expressed the Chinese Government's extreme concern with and took strong exception to the contents of the State Department press officer's remarks.

Mr. Chow pointed out that both the Cairo Declaration and the Postdam Declaration clearly provided that Taiwan and the Pescadores should be returned to the Republic of China. Moreover, the Sino-Japanese Peace Treaty signed in 1952 and the Sino-American Mutual Defense Treaty signed in 1954 have definitely recognized Taiwan and the Pescadores as part of the territories of the Republic of China. It is, therefore, beyond comprehension that the State Department press officer should have made at this time a statement touching upon the legal status of Taiwan and the Pescadores.

Minister Chow stressed the necessity for the U.S. government to make a clarification of this matter as soon as possible.

In reply, the American Ambassador told the Foreign Minister that he had made a telegraphic enquiry about this incident to the State Department and was instructed to assure the Chinese government that Mr. Bray's statement does not represent any change in the U.S. policy concerning the status of Taiwan and the Pescadores and the Republic of China's legitimate jurisdiction over Taiwan and the Pescadores.

The Ambassador added that it is the consistent policy of the United States that issues relating to this area should be settled by peaceful means, but this should not be construed as the United States advocating a direct negotiation between the Chinese Government and the Peiping regime.

Minister Chow made particular mention to the American Ambassador of the statement made by President Richard M. Nixon on the evening of April 29th (Washington time) at a press conference that any such suggestion for a direct negotiation is completely unrealistic. As far as the Chinese government is concerned, it is simply inconceivable.

Minister Chow emphatically asked the American Ambassador to convey the Chinese Government's firm and just stand to the State Department, to which the American ambassador

agreed.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also instructed today the Chinese embassy in Washington to make a strong representation to the State Department to the same effect.