

Statement of Chou En-lai, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, on the Situation in the Taiwan Straits Area

On September 4, 1958, United States Secretary of State Dulles, authorized by United States President Eisenhower, issued a statement openly threatening to extend United States aggression in the Taiwan Straits area against the People's Republic of China and carrying out war provocation, thereby aggravating the tension in this area created by the United States and seriously jeopardizing the peace of the Far East and the world. Regarding this, I have been authorized by the Government of the People's Republic of China to make the following statement.

(1) Taiwan and the Penghu Islands have been China's territories from ancient times. Following the Second World War, they were restored to China after being occupied by Japan for a period of time. It is entirely China's internal affair for the Chinese people to exercise their sovereign right to liberate these areas. This is the Chinese people's sacred and inviolable right. The United States Government itself also declared formally that it would not get involved in China's civil conflict in the Taiwan area. Were it not for the fact that the United States Government later went back on its own statement and carried out armed intervention, Taiwan and the Penghu Islands would have long been liberated and placed under the jurisdiction of the Government of the People's Republic of China. These are undeniable facts unanimously recognized by fair-minded world public opinion.

(2) United States support of the Chiang Kai-shek clique entrenched on Taiwan and the Penghu Islands, which has long been repudiated by all the Chinese people, and its direct armed occupation of Taiwan and the Penghu Islands constitute unlawful interference in China's internal affairs and infringement on China's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and are in direct conflict with the United Nations Charter and all codes of international law. All so-called treaties concluded between the United States and the Chiang Kai-shek clique and all related resolutions adopted by the United States Con-

gress are null and void as far as the Chinese people are concerned. They can never legalize United States aggression. Much less can they be used as pretexts by the United States for extending its aggression in the Taiwan Straits area.

(3) Supported by the United States, the Chiang Kai-shek clique has for long been using coastal islands such as Quemoy which is close by Amoy and Matsu which is close by Foochow as advance bases for conducting all sorts of harassing and disruptive activities against the Chinese mainland. Recently, since the United States launched armed intervention against the Arab states, the harassing and disruptive activities of the Chiang Kai-shek clique against the Chinese mainland have become more unbridled. The Chinese Government has every right to deal resolute blows and take necessary military action against Chiang Kai-shek's troops entrenched on the coastal islands; any outside intervention would be a criminal infringement on China's sovereignty. But the United States, in order to divert the attention of the people of the world from continued United States aggression in the Middle East and procrastination in withdrawing its troops from the Lebanon, attempts to take advantage of this situation and is amassing large numbers of armed forces in the Taiwan Straits area and openly threatening to extend its aggression in the Taiwan Straits area to Quemoy, Matsu, and other coastal islands. This is a grave war provocation against the 600 million Chinese people and a serious menace to the peace of the Far East and the world.

(4) The Chinese people's determination to liberate their own territory of Taiwan and the Penghu Islands is unshakable. In particular the Chinese people cannot tolerate the presence in their inland waters along the mainland of an immediate threat posed by such coastal islands as Quemoy and Matsu. No amount of U.S. war provocations can cow the Chinese people; on the contrary, they will only arouse even greater indignation among our 600 million people, and make them even more determined to fight American aggressors to the very end. The fact that the United States, while not yet withdrawing its forces of aggression from the Lebanon, has hastened to create a new danger of war in the Taiwan Straits area, has made the peace-loving countries and people of the world see even more clearly the brutish features of the United States aggressors bent on sabotaging peace and that the United States imperialists are the most vicious enemy of all national independence movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America and the world peace movement.

(5) In pursuance of its foreign policy of peace, the Chinese Government has always stood for peaceful co-existence of countries with different social systems in accordance with the Five Principles and for the settlement of all international disputes by the peaceful means of negotiation. Despite the fact that the United States has

invaded and occupied China's territory of Taiwan and the Penghu Islands by armed force and crudely violated the minimum codes in international relations, the Chinese Government proposed to sit down to negotiate with the U.S. Government to seek relaxation and elimination of the tension in the Taiwan area. In the Sino-American ambassadorial talks which started in August 1955 the Chinese side time and again proposed that the two parties should, in accordance with the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, issue a statement declaring their intention to settle the dispute between China and the United States in the Taiwan area through peaceful negotiation and without resorting to the threat or use of force against each other. But, contrary to Dulles' assertion in his September 4 statement, it is precisely the United States that has refused to issue such a statement and, moreover, has later suspended unilaterally the talks themselves. After the Chinese Government demanded in July this year that the talks be resumed within a set time-limit, the U.S. Government did not make a timely reply, but it has ultimately designated a representative of ambassadorial rank. Now, the U.S. Government again indicates its desire to settle the Sino-American dispute in the Taiwan area through peaceful negotiation. To make a further effort to safeguard peace, the Chinese Government is prepared to resume the ambassadorial talks between the two countries. But the danger of war created by the United States in China's Taiwan area has not been reduced thereby. In view of the fact that the U.S. Government often acts differently from what it says and often uses peaceful negotiation as a smokescreen to cover up its actual deed of continuously expanding aggression, the entire Chinese people and the peace-loving people all over the world must not relax in the least their struggle against U.S. interference in China's internal affairs and against U.S. threat to the peace of the Far East and the world.

(6) The Sino-American dispute in the Taiwan Straits area and the Chinese people's internal matter of liberating their own territory are two matters entirely different in nature. The United States has all along tried to confuse these two matters so as to cover up its aggression and intervention in China. This is absolutely not to be allowed. The Chinese people have every right to liberate their own territory by all suitable means at a suitable time, and will not tolerate any foreign interference. Should the U.S. Government, brazenly disregarding the Chinese people's repeated warnings and the desire of the people of the world for peace, persist in their aggression and intervention against China and impose war on the Chinese people, it must bear the responsibility for all the serious consequences.

September 6, 1958

Statement of Foreign Minister Chen Yi Refuting Dulles' Speech at U.N.

The Chinese people are profoundly enraged by the statement on the situation in the Taiwan Straits area made by U.S. Secretary of State Dulles at the United Nations General Assembly on September 18. The United States has invaded and occupied our territory Taiwan, and in addition has recently concentrated large numbers of armed forces to interfere with the recovery by the Chinese people of Quemoy, Matsu and other coastal islands, and has thus gravely threatened peace in the Far East and the world. In order to disguise these aggressive activities of the United States, Dulles has gone so far as to accuse our country of being an "aggressor" and to propose a so-called "cease-fire." This is indeed extremely preposterous. Actually, the current armed provocations and war threats directed against our country by the U.S. imperialists have met with strong opposition and condemnation from the peace-loving countries and people throughout the world. Dulles' statements which turn the facts upside-down can deceive no one.

The Chinese people are determined to recover Quemoy and Matsu, and no force on earth can stop them. The Chiang Kai-shek clique, repudiated by the Chinese people, has been using Quemoy and Matsu all along to carry out all sorts of harassing military activities against our mainland and coastal areas with the support of U.S. imperialism. In the last two months, these military activities have become even more unbridled. The facts show that so long as Quemoy and Matsu are not recovered, the immediate threat to our mainland and coastal areas will not be removed. The punitive military operations conducted by the Chinese people against Chiang Kai-shek's troops entrenched on Quemoy and Matsu are therefore entirely proper and necessary. But the U.S. imperialists have described as "aggression" this action of the Chinese people in exercising their sovereign right and used this as a pretext to intervene, in an attempt to bring Quemoy, Matsu and other islands in our inland waters under their direct armed control and turn them into springboards for further aggression against the Chinese mainland. The Chinese people have not forgotten the historical lesson that the Japanese militarists first invaded and occupied

Taiwan and northeast China and converted them into springboards for aggression against the whole of China. They will never allow the U.S. imperialists to repeat the old tricks of the Japanese militarists.

The tension in the Taiwan Straits area is entirely the result of U.S. imperialist aggression against our country. The key to eliminating the tension in the Taiwan Straits area is not a so-called "ceasefire," but the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Taiwan area. There is no fighting between China and the United States, so the question of a so-called "ceasefire" does not arise at all. As to the armed conflict between the Chinese people and the Chiang Kai-shek clique, it has never ceased since the Chinese People's War of Liberation and has never brought about any international tension. The liberation by the Chinese people of their territory, whether by peaceful means or by armed struggle, is the affair of the Chinese people themselves. The point at present is that the United States is playing with fire on the brink of war and is attempting to extend its aggression against China. The imminent danger at present in the situation in the Taiwan Straits area is that the United States, ignoring our repeated grave warnings and the strong protests of the people of the world, persists in its armed provocations and war threats against our people. To ease and eliminate the tension in the Taiwan Straits area, the United States must at once stop its armed provocations and war threats against China and withdraw all its armed forces from Taiwan and the Taiwan Straits. The tension in the Taiwan Straits area will continue as long as the U.S. armed forces are not withdrawn.

The Chinese Government has time and again indicated its willingness to settle the Sino-American disputes in the area of Taiwan and other areas in the Far East through peaceful negotiations without resorting to the threat or use of force. If the United States has any sincere desire to settle the disputes between the two countries peacefully, it should respect China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and stop interfering in China's internal affairs. The liberation of Taiwan by the Chinese people is China's internal affair — this was publicly acknowledged by the U.S. Government in 1950, and is an undeniable fact no matter how forgetful Dulles is. All sober-minded people in the world agree that Quemoy, Matsu and other coastal islands have always belonged to China, only those who are obsessed with ideas of aggression, like Dulles, refuse to do so. Dulles described the Chinese people's liberation of their own territory as "armed conquest." Actually it is precisely the United States itself that has conquered China's territories by force. The United States has concentrated the largest amount of naval and air power in the Taiwan Straits area to engage in war provocations against our people. Yet Dulles parades as an advocate of the renunciation of the use of force

and the elimination of provocations. If these statements of Dulles' are not designed to fool other people, the U.S. armed forces must be withdrawn from Taiwan and the Taiwan Straits. This is precisely the urgent question to be settled in the current Sino-American ambassadorial talks. The Chinese Government places hope in the Sino-American ambassadorial talks now in progress, but Dulles said he would bring the Sino-American disputes to the United Nations. It is well known, however, that the People's Republic of China has been unjustifiably deprived of its rightful place in the United Nations. Therefore, one cannot but doubt whether the United States is sincere about Sino-American negotiations.

The Chinese people ardently love peace, but they will never succumb to the war threat of the imperialists. No amount of war threats by the U.S. imperialists can cow the Chinese people. The mighty demonstrations against U.S. aggression held by 300 million Chinese people in the cities and the countryside testify to the Chinese people's firm will. Should the U.S. aggressors, despite the repeated warnings of the Chinese people and the firm opposition of the people of the world, dare to impose war on us, our 600 million people, united as one, will certainly spare no sacrifice and will, under the sacred banner of defending our great motherland, fight against aggression, fight for the preservation of our sovereignty and territorial integrity, and fight for the safeguarding of peace in the Far East and the world! Ours is a just struggle. With the help of the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union and with the sympathy and support of all the peace-loving countries and people of Asia, Africa and the rest of the world, we will certainly win complete victory.

September 20, 1958

Declaration of Chinese Writers and Artists

On September 7, 1958, ten literary and art organizations: the Chinese Federation of Literary and Art Circles, the Union of Chinese Writers, the Union of Chinese Dramatists, the Union of Chinese Musicians, the Union of Chinese Artists, the Chinese Chuyi Artists Association, the Chinese Dance Research Society, the Chinese Folk Literature and Arts Research Institute, the Association of Chinese Cinema Workers and the Chinese Photographic Society, issued the following joint declaration of support for Premier Chou En-lai's statement on the situation in the Taiwan Straits area.

Chinese literary and art circles firmly support the statement by Premier Chou En-lai on the situation in the Taiwan Straits area.

The Chinese literary and art circles firmly oppose the war threats and military provocations of the United States.

We Chinese people have the sacred right and duty to liberate our own territory. Taiwan, the Penghu Islands, Quemoy, Matsu and other islands have been Chinese territory since ancient times. We Chinese people have every right to liberate our own territory by all suitable means at a suitable time and will not tolerate any foreign interference. The U.S. aggressors have for a long time forcibly occupied our territory Taiwan and the Penghu Islands. Now, in order to extend the scope of their aggression from Taiwan to Quemoy and Matsu islands, they are fabricating ridiculous pretexts to excuse their violations of the sovereign rights of the Chinese people; they are creating an open threat of war and military provocations in the Taiwan Straits area by massing troops there. This will not be tolerated by our people.

Steeled and tested, the Chinese people cannot be intimidated. U.S. war provocations will only arouse still greater indignation among the people of our country.

The Supreme State Conference has called on all our people to mobilize, to struggle resolutely against the military provocations and war threats of the U.S. imperialists in the Taiwan Straits area. We pledge our whole-hearted support. Chinese literary and art circles will mobilize all their forces, all the weapons of their literature and art and throw themselves into the sacred struggle to defend our motherland and peace.

If the U.S. aggressors disregard the repeated warnings of the Chinese people and the desire for peace of the peoples of the world, continue their intervention and aggression against China and force war on the Chinese people, we are confident that the Chinese people will not be afraid of war. The U.S. aggressors will certainly come to grief.

Victory will go to the Chinese people in their righteous defence of peace.