

General MacArthur's Statement on His Trip to Formosa,
August 1, 1950



My visit to Formosa has been primarily for the purpose of making a short reconnaissance of the potential of its defense against possible attack.

The policy has been enunciated that this island, including the Pescadores, is not under present circumstances subject to military invasion.

It is my responsibility and firm purpose to enforce this decision. My conferences here on all levels have been most cordial and responsive in every respect.

Among the problems which were discussed was the prompt and generous offer of the Chinese Government to send troops to join the United Nations forces in Korea.

The belief of all concerned, however, was that such action at this time might so seriously jeopardize the defense of Formosa that it would be inadvisable.

Arrangements have been completed for effective coordination between the American forces under my command and those of the Chinese Government the better to meet any attack which a hostile force might be foolish enough to attempt.

Such an attack would, in my opinion, stand little chance of success.

It has been a great pleasure for me to meet my old comrade-in-arms of the last war, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

His indomitable determination to resist Communist domination arouses my sincere admiration. His determination parallels the common interest and purpose of Americans that all peoples in the Pacific area shall be free -- not slave.

-- The New York Times, August 1, 1950