



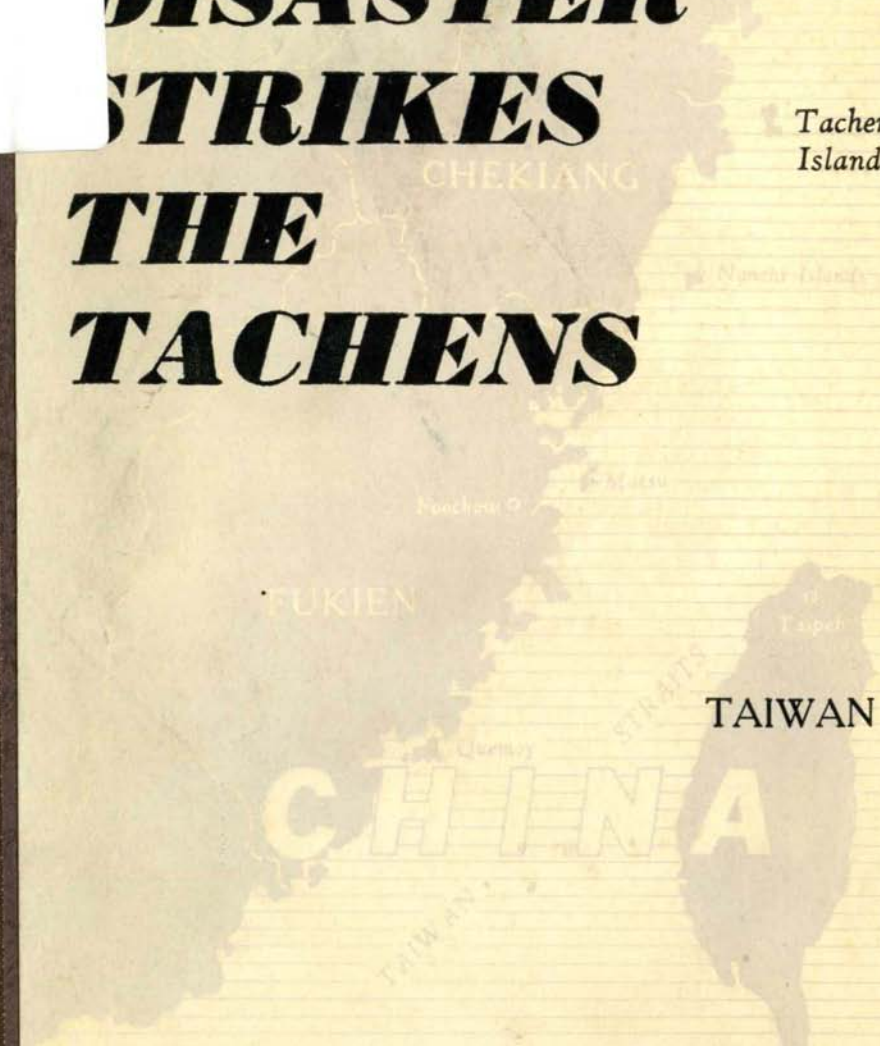
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DISASTER STRIKES THE TACHENS

Tachen
Islands



The report of an investigation by the Red Cross
Society of China into crimes committed by Chiang
Kai-shek's troops, instigated and protected by the
United States, during their withdrawal from the
Tachens and other islands

Peking, April 7, 1955

**DISASTER STRIKES
THE TACHENS**

THE RED CROSS SOCIETY OF CHINA

Printed in the People's Republic of China

Statement by the Red Cross Society of China
on the Investigation into the
Disaster in the Tachens

On learning of the shocking crime of Chiang Kai-shek's troops in uprooting some 20,000 peaceful inhabitants of the Tachens and other islands and taking them to Taiwan at the instigation of the U.S. Government and under the protection of U.S. forces, the Red Cross Society of China sent out an Investigating Commission to the Tachens and other islands to conduct investigations on the spot. The result of the investigation confirmed that the U.S. and Chiang Kai-shek troops in fact committed the above-mentioned crime. Since the Red Cross has the aim of aiding the sick and wounded and relieving the sufferings of the people and in view of its tradition of upholding humanitarianism, the Red Cross Society of China considers that it is necessary to make known the results of the investigation to the whole world.

Li Teh-chuan,
Chairman, Red Cross Society of China

April 7, 1955

INTRODUCTION

On February 5, 1955, President Eisenhower of the United States ordered the U.S. Seventh Fleet and other units to give cover to Chiang Kai-shek's forces in their withdrawal from the Tachens and other islands, and in their removal of local population to Taiwan. Upon this order, the United States military authorities, with the Seventh Fleet as the main force, dispatched 132 naval vessels, more than 500 aircraft, more than 45,000 naval personnel and 3,000 air force personnel to take part in this action.

Important U.S. government officials, including Admiral Pride, Commander of the U.S. Seventh Fleet; Karl Rankin, United States Ambassador to Taiwan; General Chase, Chief of the United States Military Assistance Advisory Group on Taiwan; and Rear Admiral Sabin of the United States Navy, went to the Tachens on various occasions to observe, arrange and supervise the withdrawal.

The Chiang Kai-shek forces, clinging to the islands off the eastern coast of Chekiang Province—the Tachens, Yushan and Pishan Islands—helped by U.S. forces, withdrew on February 12 and took with them upwards of 18,000 inhabitants. From February 14 to the 25, when the Chiang Kai-shek forces withdrew from Nanchi Islands off the southern coast of Chekiang, they also, at the instigation of the U.S. Government, carried off all the islanders, numbering over 2,000.

On February 13 and 26, 1955, the Chinese People's Liberation Army landed on the Tachens, the Yushan, Pishan and Nanchi Islands. The P.L.A. rescued 59 persons who had been imprisoned by the Chiang Kai-shek forces

on the Yangchi Islands and Pingfengshan Islands near the Tachens. These survivors, full of indignation, made the charge that extreme violence had been used by the United States and Chiang Kai-shek troops in forcing the 20,000-odd peaceful inhabitants of the Tachens and other islands to leave their homes. They also made the charge that these troops, without the slightest scruple, burnt and destroyed the houses which the islanders had built and the property they had accumulated by their own hard work. In this way they were deprived of even a home to go back to. These 59 persons were:

Nineteen Tachen islanders (including one child, a girl slightly more than one year old) imprisoned without cause by the Chiang Kai-shek troops on the Yangchi Islands. Among them were: Wang Shou-chien, Lin Tse-ching, Wang Chi-chang, Wang Hsiang-hua, Yen Tsu-ting, Lin Ming-yao, Chen San-mei, Hsieh Pao-hsien, Wu Shih-hsiao, Wang Meng-cheng, Mrs. Chia, Cheng Kai-mei, Yeh Chien-lin, Wang Yi-tsai, Su Ping-lin, Hung Chen and Chen Cheng-yi;

Twenty-one former soldiers of Chiang Kai-shek's troops, whose families were on the Tachens and who were released by the People's Liberation Army. These men were captured by the P.L.A. in the battle for Yikiangshan. After being released to go back home, they were imprisoned by Chiang Kai-shek's troops on the Yangchi Islands and Pingfengshan Islands. Among this group were: Chen Chih-yi, Chuke Hua, Chao Sheng, Hu Ah-ying, Wang Chih-ping, Tseng Ting-peng and Chu Kuo-kuang;

Then there were sixteen fishermen from the coastal regions of Chekiang Province, who had been abducted and imprisoned on the Yangchi Islands by the Chiang Kai-shek forces. Among these were: Fang Hsien-yueh, Chen Chih-ho, Chen Chiu-tsai, Chen Chi-wen and Liu Fu-ken;

In addition to the foregoing there were two people left behind on the Tachens by the Chiang Kai-shek forces when they withdrew. One was Kung Chiang-po, an old man, seriously ill, who recovered his health after being treated

by doctors of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. The other was Lo Hsiao-fan, a complete lunatic. There was also an army cook in the Chiang Kai-shek forces, Lu Hsiao-hua, who hid in a cave on Pishan Island during the withdrawal from that island.

On learning of the charge of the forcible removal of the islanders, the Red Cross Society of China, to uphold humanitarian principles, organized an Investigating Commission, groups of which visited the Tachens, Yushan, Pishan and Nanchi and smaller islands in their vicinity from March 3 to the 22. The Commission made on-the-spot investigations of the crimes committed by Chiang Kai-shek's forces during their retreat—a retreat prompted by the United States Government and covered by the United States forces. They also expressed sympathy with and gave relief to the 59 victims. Fifty-one other persons accompanied the Investigating Commission to these islands. They were:

Nineteen fishermen who formerly lived on the Tachens and other islands but who escaped before the Chiang Kai-shek forces withdrew. Among these were: Yeh Yung-cha, Chien Hsing-ming, Tung Wen-lo, Cheng Ah-hsien, Wang Sze-han and Mei Ah-ken;

Nine dependents of fishermen living on the Chekiang coast, the heads of whose families had been removed to Taiwan by the Chiang Kai-shek forces. Among these were: Li Huo-yuan and Li Liang-yen; and

Twenty-three servicemen, among whom were: Hsieh Chia-chu, staff officer of a naval unit of the Chinese People's Liberation Army; Chen Yu-kun, deputy commander of a sappers' company; Wu Hsiang-yun, leader of a sappers' platoon; Hao Hua-tai, leader of a scouts' platoon; and Ying Kuan-kuei, Chin Chi-jung and Lo Hsien-fang, scouts.

In the course of its investigations, the Commission interviewed all available witnesses of the crimes, collected such material evidence as had not been entirely destroyed by the Chiang Kai-shek forces, made recordings of important

evidence and took photographs and cinematographic films of the destruction. Detailed investigation and cross-checking fully substantiated the charge that the United States and Chiang Kai-shek forces forcibly removed all inhabitants of the Tachens and other islands. This is an indisputable fact.

We now make known the results of this investigation to the Chinese people and all people throughout the world.

I. THE FORCIBLE UPROOTING OF THE POPULATION

In the course of its investigations, the Commission found that Chiang Kai-shek's military and governmental bodies had denied the local population any choice whatsoever. They had, time and again, resorted to military and administrative decrees to achieve their sinister objective—the forcible abduction of the 20,000 inhabitants of the Tachens and other islands.

The Investigating Commission salvaged some half-burnt documents from the ruins of the Chiang Kai-shek Office of the Special Commissioner for Administrative Supervision in the Tachen Area (O.S.C.A.S.T.A.). Among these was a cable from Chiang Kai-shek's Acting Chief of Staff, Peng Meng-chi. The Investigating Commission read the following words on this partly burnt piece of paper: “. . . all must be evacuated to Taiwan. Have heard Tachen has a few seriously ill and aged, whose evacuation to Taiwan is difficult. The President orders: all difficulties must be overcome. If necessary use stretchers to carry on board. Must evacuate to Taiwan. Trust orders obeyed.—Peng .02.07.15.40” (*Investigating Commission's note: Dots indicate words illegible.*)

The Investigating Commission also found a “Message to the People” issued by the Chiang Kai-shek commander on the Tachens. It said, in part: “. . . President Chiang specially commands that inhabitants of this island go to Taiwan. The Command will act as ordered.”

That the Tachen islanders were unwilling to comply with the order compelling them to leave their homes, was established by the Investigating Commission on the basis

to go to Taiwan, I noticed he was often called to the County Government to attend meetings. He would come back sighing and groaning. Once he said to me: 'You people have got to leave. If you don't, the boss will have my head.'"

The Chiang Kai-shek O.S.C.A.S.T.A. also forced the inhabitants of the Tachens and other islands to leave for Taiwan by compulsory registration and issue of "evacuation" tags. Lin Ming-yao said that about January 20 the Wenling County Government issued a notice to the effect that "those who chose evacuation might register at the Police Station," where they would receive "evacuation" tags. This method produced no results. Then, on January 27 the Wenling County Government suddenly issued a notice saying that lists were to be made up by the various *pao*, to include the names of all the inhabitants. The *pao* immediately asked the *lin* leaders to collect the identity cards of each family, so that the lists could be drawn up. Then the *lin* leader told each family: "I have already reported your names to my superior." On January 29 "evacuation" tags were issued to the town of Chengkung. They consisted of a piece of white cloth, one inch by three, with a number at the top and the name below. The cloth was stamped with a seal. The *pao* leader wrote the names on the "evacuation" tags from the list of names already entered in the registration book and the tags were then issued to every family. Orders were issued that everyone, young and old, women and children, had to wear these tags. Wang Meng-cheng, Wang Chi-chang, Wang Shou-chien, Wang Hsiang-hua, Su Ping-lin, Wu Shih-hsiao and Kung Chiang-po all confirmed that the people were forced to wear these tags by order of Chiang's military and administrative personnel. The *lin* leaders told them, "Once the 'evacuation' tags are issued, you'll have to go." Su Ping-lin remembered that the serial number of his "evacuation" tag was 408.

The Investigating Commission picked up a "Record of Pingyang County Inhabitants to Be Evacuated to Taiwan"

in the ruins of Chiang Kai-shek's Pingyang County Government building on the Nanchi Islands. It gave the names, ages, sex and serial numbers of the whole population of the Nanchi Islands, with their photographs. Chien Hsing-ming, an islander who escaped before the retreat of Chiang Kai-shek's army, told the Investigating Commission: "That was the 'book of fate.' If anyone refused to go to Taiwan, the Kuomintang looked up his number in the record and sought out his whole family and the other two families which had signed a 'three-family guarantee of chain responsibility.'" From the facts given by Lin Ming-yao and others, the Investigating Commission established the fact that the "chain responsibility" system was one of the repressive means by which the Chiang Kai-shek military and governmental bodies maintained their rule over the inhabitants of the Tachens and other islands. The method was to order every three households to sign a written guarantee for each other. If one household was found "guilty," the other two also would be punished. In the office of Chiang Kai-shek's Chengkung Town Government, the Investigating Commission found a tattered "guarantee of chain responsibility." Only the torn half of the whole written guarantee remained. On the front were the words: "People sharing chain responsibility should keep a close watch on each other." On the back were printed regulations concerning collective punishments, which included ". . . imprisonment for not less than ten years or life." This particular "guarantee of chain responsibility" was signed and fingerprinted by Mrs. Lin, Feng Chin-chang and Tao Feng-hsiang, three inhabitants of the Seventh *lin* of Peace Lane. Wang Hsiang-hua, Wang Shou-chien and others told the Investigating Commission that the people were all particularly afraid of signing the guarantee. They said: "The *pao* leader told us that it was impossible to avoid going to Taiwan because every three households had guaranteed each other."

Wang Shou-chien and others also told the Investigating Commission how Chiang Kai-shek's military and adminis-

trative personnel had concentrated the fishermen's boats. All the fishing boats at the Tachens were brought together before January 30. Wang Chi-chang, a fisherman in Huangfuchiao, said: "On January 23, the Kuomintang forced me to row my boat to the Langtungmen and then called some men to drag it ashore. I saw that all the Huangfuchiao fishing boats had been brought together there. There was no way out, with the sea around us." The Investigating Commission saw 39 boats beached in the harbour of Tahsiaopu on Tachen Island and 27 on the beach outside the Langtungmen. The Commission noticed that mines had been laid and barbed-wire entanglements erected all round the two concentration points for fishing boats.

Lin Ming-yao and others stated that in the afternoon of the day when the "evacuation" tags were issued, Yu Tseh-tung, head of the Military Affairs Section of Chiang Kai-shek's Wenling County Government, called all the inhabitants of Chengkung above the rank of *lin* leader to the naval drill ground. He went over the regulations for the islanders as to where they were to assemble, what routes they were to take and by what wharves they were to embark. In the ruins of the Chiang Kai-shek O.S.C.A.S.T.A. building the Investigating Commission picked up a "map of main assembly points for all groups coming under Evacuation Headquarters for the Population of the Tachens." The chart showed the assembly points for various groups of people to be abducted and their routes to the wharves. Using the chart as a guide, the Commission went to the assembly points, which included the naval drill ground, Nantien and a clinic. The Commission went along the routes to the wharves as indicated by the chart. It was discovered that all these roads were very narrow—paths along the coasts and mountains. Yet the main roads to the wharves were quite near these paths. The Commission was curious to know why the O.S.C.A.S.T.A. should force the ten thousand-odd inhabitants to go to the wharves by these narrow paths in-

stead of by the main roads. Su Ping-lin said: "The Kuomintang were better able to keep watch on the islanders on the narrow paths and prevent them from running away."

The Commission also found a copy of a "Directive on Co-ordinated Propaganda Work, Issued by Evacuation Headquarters for the Population of the Tachens." It called on all personnel to "carry out propaganda work immediately among the households under their charge in accordance with this Directive." One of the items of propaganda was to tell the people that "it is a rare chance to be able to evacuate to Taiwan. Everybody should be happy and gay during the evacuation. No one should look sad, weep or kick up a fuss." In the "Rules for Evacuation and on the Journey," the islanders were instructed that "on arrival in Taiwan, you must look happy and must give cheers of gratitude to those who come to welcome you."

Wang Hsiang-hua told how Chu Chuang-fu, a *pao* director, called a meeting of the inhabitants of Huang-fuchiao because they wept and did not want to go to Taiwan. "When the Communists come," he said, "they will kill everyone who is still on the Tachens. The U.S. Seventh Fleet will soon be here. You will be surrounded by planes and warships. You have no other course but to go to Taiwan. Go and tell your people at home that everyone who leaves has to put on a smiling face and that crying is prohibited. Only fools cry. Anyone who won't register for evacuation to Taiwan must be a Communist."

Wu Shih-hsiao gave the Investigating Commission the following facts: On January 30 he saw Mou Yung-hsiang, a peasant, and Cheng Nai-yu, a fisherman, and more than twenty other people pleading with Feng Chi-hsien, a *pao* director, in his office at Yuehmingli. They were pleading: "We can't go to Taiwan. Our land, houses and boats are here. In Taiwan we have nothing. How can we live there?" Feng Chi-hsien replied coolly:

"Anyone who doesn't want to evacuate must have 'incorrect ideas.' Anyone who refuses to go will be arrested the next day!"

Lu Hsiao-hua of Huitouau, where the Second Company of the Third Shock Battalion was stationed, had this to say to the Commission: Just before their forced removal, the inhabitants of the village were ordered to attend meetings for five consecutive days at the Wang-yeh Temple. "Evacuation Orders" were read out by Battalion Headquarters, which stated that all of them, whether they liked it or not, must go to Taiwan.

The Investigating Commission found that many islanders refused to leave their homes in spite of the pressure put on them. Chiang Kai-shek's police and secret agents started arresting people right and left, to strike fear into all those who refused. Wang Shou-chien told the Commission that he had repeatedly told the *pao* and *lin* leaders that he would not go to Taiwan. He was arrested on February 2, and taken to the Tachen Liaison Centre of the Security Bureau of Chiang Kai-shek's Ministry of Defence. On February 4 the inhabitants were called to a meeting. Wang Shou-chien's son, Wang Chi-chang, had stomach-ache and did not go. He was arrested that night.

Wang Hsiang-hua in her evidence to the Commission, said: She and her husband had talked in secret at night about how they hated going to Taiwan. She had also told her neighbours, Chiang Hsueh-chuan and Chin Chi-fa, how she felt. On the night of February 2 Chu Chuang-fu, the *pao* director, and the police dragged her off to the Tachen Liaison Centre of the Security Bureau. She had her fourteen-month-old daughter with her, but the police forbade her to take along any napkins, or even to put shoes and socks on the child's bare feet. She was cold and frightened, and felt like crying, but the police warned her that she must not. When she reached the Tachen Liaison Centre of the Security Bureau, a secret

agent told her bluntly, "I think you must be a Communist." She was immediately locked up in a tiny room.

The old woman Mrs. Chia was arrested by the police on the night of January 24. The secret agent at the Tachen Liaison Centre said to her: "You, old woman, have 'incorrect ideas.' Your son is on the mainland and *you* don't want to go to Taiwan."

Wang Shou-chien and the eighteen others were only part of the total number of islanders arrested. The Commission found that there were six prisons or lock-ups on the Tachens. Wang Shou-chien and others testified that before the removal of the Tachen population, there were more than forty islanders locked up in the air-raid shelter with them. Chiang Chung-po and nineteen more of them were bound with ropes and taken away on the night of February 2. They never returned.

* * *

More than a hundred U.S. warships and vessels and about five hundred U.S. planes arrived at the Tachens on February 7. The next day, the mass uprooting of the population began. Tachen islanders who had been imprisoned by Chiang Kai-shek's troops on the Yangchi Islands near Lower Tachen described to the Commission how the U.S. armed forces terrorized the people. They saw many U.S. warships patrolling round the islands and U.S. planes swooping over the islands, and heard the explosions on Lower Tachen. The people were thrown into terror. Speaking of that time, Wang Shou-chien said: "Those were horrible days. U.S. planes screamed in the skies. They flew almost low enough to touch us. We squeezed into a ditch, shaking with fear as we watched the planes tear over us."

While the U.S. armed forces and Chiang Kai-shek's troops were uprooting the whole Tachen population, Hsieh Chia-chu, a staff officer of a naval unit of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, was making a careful observation of the scene. He noted the number, type and

serial numbers of the U.S. naval vessels, and the movements of both vessels and aircraft. He gave the Commission a detailed account of what he observed. "I saw over a hundred U.S. warships and vessels of various types around the Tachens, while various types of U.S. planes filled the air as if they were preparing for a battle. The warships and planes constituted a powerful threat to the unarmed people of the islands."

The Commission also noted that news agencies of the Western countries had disclosed that while the U.S. air and naval forces were operating around the Tachens, U.S. marines and special demolition corps of the U.S. navy landed on the islands and played a direct part in the removal of the inhabitants and destruction on the islands.

Chiang Kai-shek's naval drill ground on Lower Tachen was one of the points at which the U.S. forces and Chiang Kai-shek troops assembled the inhabitants before forcing them to embark. The Commission found that the field had been surrounded by barbed-wire, with only one entrance and one exit. The property of the islanders was strewn all over the ground. There were heaps of spent machine-gun ammunition nearby. The scene recalled the U.P. dispatch from the Tachens datelined February 8, which read: "American marines fully armed and in battle dress were ashore at Tachen Island today to aid in the evacuation of Nationalist Chinese civilians and soldiers. . . . The marines brought machine-guns ashore and immediately set them up. . . ."

During investigations on the spot, the Commission found that in many shops on the islands, calendars showed the date February 8. Some of the compost barrels in the vegetable gardens were overturned and some of the scoops were still half filled with manure. Mesh-pins could still be seen lying beside damaged fishing nets in some houses; in others, soiled clothes, with half a cake of soap on them, were still soaking in the washing basins. The Commission saw baby clothes still lying on stone benches where they had been put to dry. There were combs on broken

mirror stands. In most houses, there were signs that families had been preparing or eating meals. There were pots of mildewed and stinking rice or soup. There were bowls and chopsticks on some tables, some of the bowls containing bits of fish or salted vegetable. There were partly eaten sweet potatoes and little particles of sweet potato still clinging to the chopsticks. On some stoves there were onions lying in water after washing and uncooked sweet potatoes in the pots. In some houses, dough lay mixed on the boards, and the stoves were laid with firewood, ready to be lit.

These unforgettable sights showed that even in the last few minutes before they were forced to leave, the Tachen islanders were still not willing to give up their normal life, and were not ready to leave their homes. But at last the U.S. troops appeared, U.S. warships trained their guns on the islands, U.S. planes roared overhead and U.S. marines mounted machine-guns on the beaches. All this clearly told the simple folk of the islands that if they did not give up their homes and possessions and embark for Taiwan in the U.S. landing craft as they were ordered, they would have to pay with their own lives and with the lives of their sons and daughters.

On the wharves and on the paths through which the inhabitants passed, such oddments as bits of cotton quilting, mosquito nets, grains of rice, socks, shoes, strings of silver bells worn by children, ear-rings and hair-pins, and account books and scales belonging to merchants were strewn everywhere. They told how the Tachen islanders were hustled onto the U.S. vessels in the tense and terrifying atmosphere created by U.S. armed forces.

The Commission investigated a small beach southeast of Tasha-ao, on Nanchi Island. There were many wooden boards erected there, bearing the names of such outlying islands as Chuyu, Menyu and Talei. There were demarcation lines around each board. The place was littered with clothes, hoes, picks, fishing nets, wooden cases, cauldrons and bowls. Specially notable were the many wooden

and iron clubs, hand-grenades and other weapons scattered beyond the demarcation lines. The Commission found a similar scene on the wharf at Pishan.

* * *

All remaining victimized islanders made a charge before the Investigating Commission, accusing U.S. and Chiang Kai-shek troops of destroying their families and tearing their relatives from them. Wang Meng-cheng and others related that when they were on the Yangchi Islands, they heard incessant explosions and saw flames rising from the Tachens. They were utterly terrified and desperately anxious about the fate of their families and relatives. On the night of February 12, when they looked from the Yangchi Islands to Huangfuchiao opposite them on Lower Tachen, they did not see a single glimmer of light in that village of a hundred-odd households. They waited anxiously until breakfast time next day. There was no trace of smoke from the chimneys of the cottages. Then it all became clear: their native village had been laid waste. They all broke down and cried.

When Chen San-mei returned home the day after Chiang Kai-shek's troops left the Tachens, he found nothing but his wife's cotton-padded clothes and a pair of shoes. "Then I could not hold back my tears," Chen said. "We have been married twelve years and never had a quarrel. Our life was hard, but we got along without complaints. She's in poor health, and I'm the only one to look after her. Now we're far from each other. Who can she turn to for help?" A tailor, Cheng Kai-mei, aged 41, had a family of six. His wife, two daughters, a one-year-old son were all carried away, with his teen-age apprentice. "We were poor, but we were a family. But what now? She is a woman, dragged off to Taiwan with three children and an apprentice lad. How can they make a living there?" Cheng asked. "My heart is torn when I think of them." He described nightmares, in which he saw his loved ones suffering horribly in Taiwan. At the

end of his statement, he said to the Commission: "When will my family ever be together again?"

Mrs. Chia, who had been living with her elder brother, told the Commission: "Ours is a family of twenty, all told, four generations all living together. Now I can find no one at all in our ruined house. In the old days, my five-year-old grand-niece, Hsiao-ho, would come and say, 'Auntie, supper's ready!' Now I can hear her calling me no longer." Wang Hsiang-hua not only had her husband and two daughters taken away to Taiwan, she also lost sixteen of four generations of in-law's, her sixty-year-old granny, elder brother, elder sister-in-law and three nephews. Now Wang Hsiang-hua has only Hsiu-feng, her youngest daughter, with her. Hsiu-feng, just over a year old, had been with her mother when she was arrested, and they were both detained in the same place.

Former soldiers of Chiang Kai-shek's army like Chen Chih-yi had been released by the Chinese People's Liberation Army and gone home to the Tachens. They were imprisoned on Pingfengshan Islands. A group of them wrote a letter of accusation and gave it to the Investigating Commission. They wrote: "When Chiang's troops had fled, we returned to Tachen. We still hung on to the hope that our families would be there. But when we landed we saw that Tachen had become a dead island. Some houses were still burning. We went back to where we used to live. Some houses were still there but the robbers had scattered our things all over the place and we could not find a single one of our relatives. We were anxious about our loved ones and we decided to go to the Nanchi Islands to look for them. The Chinese People's Liberation Army helped us and found us a boat. We started out from Tachen in the afternoon of February 22 and arrived in Nanchi at noon on the 25th. We did not find out till we landed at Nanchi that the Chiang troops had run away from there, too. There was not a single living soul around, although we tramped all over the island. Where were our parents and wives? We have

spent years facing death in the Chiang army. Our families have been broken up and scattered by Chiang Kai-shek. Now, again, we were brought to tears of bitterness. We can find no words to describe the heartache and sorrow we felt at that moment. Looking at the boundless ocean and thinking of those we love—our mothers, fathers, wives and children—our hearts were breaking.”

People like Wang Shou-chien, Lin Tse-ching and Wang Hsiang-hua said that but for the U.S. troops who helped Chiang by sending planes and warships, the Kuomintang troops themselves could not have got away, and they certainly could not have dragged off all the inhabitants of the Tachens.

“And now,” they said, “we don’t know whether our families are dead or alive.”

Tragedy awaited the inhabitants of the Tachens from the day they were taken away from their island homes. According to the *Hongkong Kung Sheung Daily News* of February 18, there were “more than a hundred persons of 70 and over” among those taken from the Tachens. Of these aged people, “two died on the ship of heart trouble and convulsions due to tetanus.” *The New York Times* on February 11 carried the news that there were three deaths on the attack transport USS *Henrico*.

After the inhabitants of the Tachens reached Taiwan, they suffered even more severely disease and death. A communique issued on February 17 by the Taiwan Guidance Society (Keelung Office) stated: “At present there are 95 hospital cases . . . and ten deaths. . . . During the period February 9 to the 17, twenty-four babies were born in the districts of Keelung but seven of them did not live more than a few days.” *The Taiwan Chung Yang Jih Pao (Central Daily News)* revealed that when the inhabitants of the Tachens were being sent by Chiang’s men from Keelung to other places in Taiwan, “four women gave birth on the way from Hualien to Taitung. . . . Hsu Ah-cheng, a 67-year-old invalid, died on the boat going from Keelung to Hualien. . . . Eighty-four-year-old Mrs.

Mou and a young woman, Yeh Hsia-ling, became so ill they could not even stand up after the trip from Keelung to Pingtung. . . . Mrs. Mou died on March 6." The Yilan County Clinic alone found that among 2,775 Tachen inhabitants sent to that county and examined in the Clinic during the period March 3 to the 16 "there were 1,661 cases of illness."

According to Chiang's *Credit Information* of February 13, when the inhabitants abducted from the Tachens were taken to Taiwan, "families were lodged in different places so that more often than not husbands and wives lost contact and children got stranded and had to wait for their parents to claim them." According to the Hongkong *Ta Kung Pao*: "More than 550 people looking for members of their family advertised in newspaper 'personal' columns."

Life became even more unbearable for the Tachen islanders when they reached Taiwan. As soon as they arrived at Keelung they were promptly sent to various "hostels." They lived in "classrooms with not a stick of furniture and no bedding. The only things in the rooms were a few straw mats and pallets strewn on the floor," stated the Taiwan *Chung Hua Jih Pao* of February 11. On February 28 the Taiwan *Chung Yang Jih Pao* (*Central Daily News*) said that the Tachen inhabitants taken to the "hostels" of Tungshan *Hsiang* in Lotung, Yilan County, "drew a bag of rice from the Chien Feng Rice Shop on the 26th, as directed by the government. Part of the contents of the bag was mildewed. The people also found sand, gravel, charcoal, sawdust and rat excrement in the rice. When it was cooked it stank so strongly of mildew that it was quite impossible to eat." Although the Tachen islanders were already living under such terrible conditions, the Chiang Kai-shek clique still forced them to "economize," to build "Ships for Revenge" and to make "contributions." All the "hostels" were supposed to make their "donation." The Taiwan press revealed that the suffering islanders in the No. 6 "Hostel" at Keelung alone

were mulcted of 507 kilogrammes of their rice. This fleecing by the Chiang Kai-shek clique aroused the kidnapped people to a public display of indignation. A United Press dispatch from Taipeh on March 2 stated: "This morning they (the kidnapped Tachen islanders) . . . walked to the headquarters of the Kuomintang in the city, surrounded the Kuomintang Party Committee members and announced that they could not go on living according to the economy measures prescribed by the (Kuomintang) party."

II. CRIMES OTHER THAN UPROOTING THE POPULATION

The U.S. and Chiang Kai-shek troops not only forcibly removed 20,000-odd inhabitants from their homes on the Tachens and other islands, they also burnt the houses and shops these islanders had built up with their lifelong toil. These troops recklessly plundered and destroyed such shops, houses and property as escaped burning. The local people were thus deprived of the means of production on which they had relied for their existence for generations and of the fruits of their hard work. They were rendered homeless and deprived of all means of livelihood.

A. BURNING AND DESTRUCTION

The Commission carefully examined the crimes of burning and destroying the houses of the inhabitants on the Tachen, Yushan, Pishan and Nanchi Islands committed by U.S. and Chiang Kai-shek's troops.

The Commission found that houses were burnt down in twenty towns and villages on the Tachens: Tungkeng, Tashatou, Hsichutou, Nankengchieh, Nantien, Chuniukeng, Shanpanling, Hsiangtouaoli, Hsiao-aoli, Kuantiao, Ta-aoli, Nankan, Kutingchiao, Tantou, Chiensan, Hsiaopantien, Tapantien, Tungshantou, Chungtsui and Hsiangtouao. Houses in villages like Tungkeng, Shanpanling, Hsiangtouao, Hsiao-aoli and Kuantiao were wholly destroyed. Such villages now lie in utter ruin. It is impossible to tell now what the houses looked like before the fire or to find a single article or piece of furniture undamaged.

The Investigating Commission learnt from Lin Tse-

ching, a former waiter at a bath-house in Nankengchieh, Lower Tachen, that 52 rooms (door numbers 1-22) in that village were burnt down completely. These rooms were formerly owned by 33 families including Lin Tuan-yun, a grocer whose family lived there for generations; Tu Yen-hsuan, an old peasant living by vegetable-gardening; and Chen Shou-chun, owner of a tea-house. Now nothing is left in this sea of desolation and even the stone foundations were badly scorched. In Nankengchieh the Commission found three empty U.S. army petroleum drums in the 10-metre-wide space between two heaps of ruin.

The houses of 32 former households around Tashatou were all reduced to ashes. The fishing net of Yeh Hsiao-nung was reduced to white ashes before he had even a chance to oil it. Lin Ming-yao, one of the local inhabitants well-acquainted with the place, said, "Yeh Hsiao-nung got his house from his father. He took good care of it and repaired it well. What a blow it will be to him if he finds out that his house has been destroyed!" Nothing is left on the former site of a thatched hut originally used by the four people of the family of Chiang Wen-cheng, a pedlar of confectionary, except a few of his working tools—scoops, knives, pans and moulds.

Similar destruction was done to the villages on the Nanchi Islands. Six of the villages were burnt down almost completely, with a total of 165 houses destroyed. In Waihokunao, 60 out of 61 houses were razed; in Tashao, 31 out of 32; in Matsua, 37 out of 41; in Tatiehtung, 17 out of 18; in Erhlung, all 15 houses; and in Shangpaimuping, 5 out of 12.

In the ruins of these villages, stones were scorched black and earthen walls burnt red. The Commission found there fishing nets that had been reduced to ashes and damaged articles like lead-weights, anchors, hoes, scythes, rakes, shovels, saws and hammers. Many bowls, pots and pans had cracked with the heat and the small quantities of grains people kept in their pots became charcoal.

In Matsua, a 2-foot-high stone flour-mill was found broken and beside it a stone pestle with its handle burnt off. A goat was also found in the neighbourhood, roasted.

Chien Hsing-ming, a fisherman now living in Aochiang Town, Pingyang County, Chekiang, told the Commission that he formerly owned four houses in Tasha-ao on the Nanchi Island, all left by his grandfather. When Chien fled from there in June 1952, he made the houses over to his father-in-law, Kung Hsiang-kao. Chiang Kai-shek's troops took Kung away and pulled down one of the houses to make space for a drill ground. When they left these islands, Chiang's troops burnt down the rest of Chien's houses together with his furniture. Empty U.S. army petroleum drums were found beside the ruins.

On the Pishan Islands, Chiang's troops destroyed 41 houses in three villages—Chungao, Nanaoshantou and Shangkanmen—either by burning or explosives. Wang Sze-han, one of the former inhabitants and now owner of the Lien Tai Ho Wine Shop in Kanmen, Yuhuan County, in evidence to the Commission, charged Chiang Kai-shek's troops with the crimes of destroying his houses and murdering his kinsmen. He formerly had a two-storey building in his old homestead on the Pishan Island. Chiang's troops seized the building in 1950 and drove the family out to live in a shed. Then they killed one of his younger brothers, Wang Sze-tsao, for resisting their oppression, and kidnapped another, Wang Sze-ching, taking him to Lower Tachen for forced labour. No one knew whether he was now alive or dead. Wang Sze-han came back to the island after the liberation and saw his damaged building, with the five rooms in the middle of the upper storey completely ruined, the roofs of the two side rooms collapsed and a deep bomb crater in the ground. At this miserable sight he shouted bitterly: "Chiang Kai-shek has destroyed my home and ruined my family!"

The Commission paid particular attention to the fact that near the ruins on every island they visited, one or

several empty petroleum drums were found, which invariably bore the words: "From USA for Mutual Defense."

There were about three hundred fishing and cargo boats in the Tachen, Yushan, Pishan and Nanchi Islands before the Chiang Kai-shek troops left. Some of these boats, with which the local inhabitants used to make a living, were taken away by the fleeing troops and the rest they wrecked. The Investigating Commission found not a single fishing or cargo boat in good repair on these islands.

There were several scores of damaged fishing boats on the beach near Tashatou in Lower Tachen. Wooden planks of many of the smashed boats were lying on the beach in chaos or floating in the bay. Some of the boats which still retained their shape were turned upside down on the beach, with large holes in the bottoms of every single one. It could be seen that the holes had been made with heavy and crude implements.

Forty-two fishing and cargo boats were wrecked in the three ports of Tasha-ao, Houlung and Huokunao on Nanchi Islands. On the beach of Huokunao were four rather big fishing and cargo boats, all damaged. Brown sugar was found in one of them, and rain-capes in another. A bundle of American TNT blocks with detonators and wires was found in the middle hold of the boat with the rain-capes. Two long wires were still hanging on the side of the boat. The Commission picked up two more TNT blocks a metre away from the boat.

Every one of more than forty fishing boats in Pishan Islands was wrecked. Two large fishing craft were sunk by the Chiang Kai-shek army.

The Commission inspected temporary wharves in the bay of Nankengchieh and other places in Lower Tachen which the Chiang Kai-shek troops had built out of fishing and cargo boats to embark the kidnapped civilian population. Some of the boats were half-sunk into the water, while others were strung together into groups of three or five with steel cables. Lying in disorder across the decks

of the boats were door planks, planks which had formed parts of beds or shop counters, and even timber for coffins.

Su Ping-lin and Lin Ming-yao charged the Chiang Kai-shek troops with forcibly taking away 120 fishing and cargo boats belonging to the civil population to build four temporary wharves before they pulled out. Chiang Kai-shek's army, they said, subsequently wrecked all these boats.

The Commission also found a large number of fishing boats that had been hauled up the slopes of the hills in Lower Tachen. Seven fishing craft were found on a hill-side in front of the Chiang Kai-shek Wenling County Police Station at Nankengli. They were completely wrecked. Eleven holes of different size were smashed in one of them, and the others had at least five or six holes each.

Wang Chi-chang said that before fleeing, the Chiang Kai-shek troops ordered the fishermen to haul their boats up the hill. At midnight on January 23, Chiang Kai-shek's troops forced the fishermen of Huangfuchiao to row all their fishing craft to Langtungmen where they were hauled up a hill-side. Wang Chi-chang was one of the fishermen who were forced to bring their boats there that night.

The Commission went to Langtungmen with Wang Chi-chang and found 27 fishing boats, large and small, on a hill-side which slopes down to the beach. Some of the boats were heaped one upon another, while others were turned upside down on the grass. Cracks had already appeared on the sides of many of these wooden craft. Most of the sails, masts, rudders and deck planks of the boats had gone. Six planks, which once formed the side of a boat, and an oar were left on the beach.

Wang Chi-chang immediately identified his little line-fishing boat among the wrecked craft, but all that was left of it was an empty shell. Pointing at many of the fishing boats, he told the Commission who their owners were. Boat number 2129 belonged to the family of a woman Wang Hsiang-hua, one of the victims. The owners

of boats numbered 2131, 2132, 2125, 2126, 2128, 2121 and 2130 were Ma Mei-yu, Chen San-yu, Chu Hsing-tsai, Cheng Sze-yu, Shen Cheng-tu, Ma Hsien-chi and Chen Lao-wu, all fishermen abducted by the Chiang Kai-shek army.

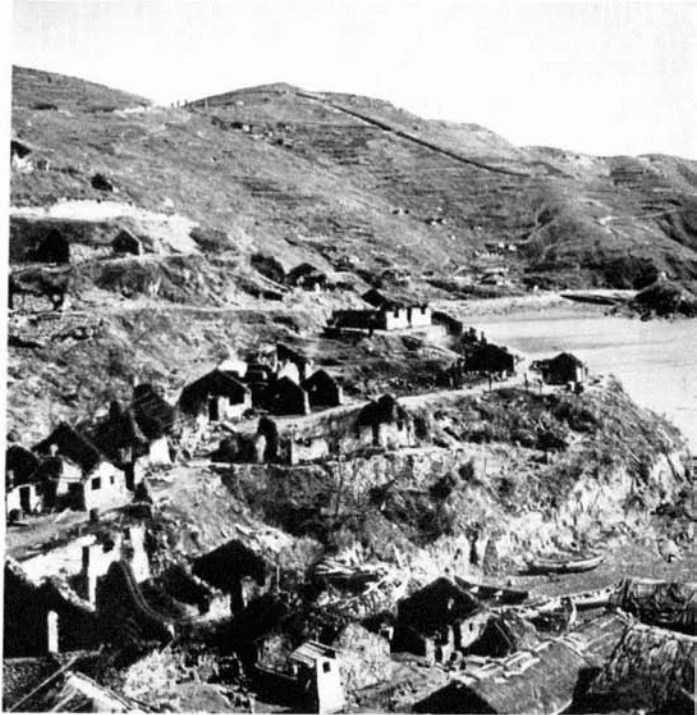
Wang Chi-chang told the Commission: "Now it's the spring fishing season. The Tachen waters are alive with cuttle-fish and yellow croakers. But for the Kuomintang we should have been busy hauling big catches now."

All the fishing craft in Tahsiaopu and other places were also wrecked. The Commission also found that large numbers of fishing nets had been destroyed. Nets were found spread here and there on a half-kilometre stretch of the road that leads to the naval wharf in Lower Tachen. They had been churned deep into the mud in which were marks left by the wheels of motor vehicles.

The Chiang Kai-shek army had also wrecked the public utilities and many of the temples on the Tachen, Yushan, Pishan and Nanchi Islands.

The Commission inspected the important public wells, ponds and reservoirs on Lower Tachen which the inhabitants built. They were wrecked by the Chiang Kai-shek troops. Yeh Chien-lin, a victim, told the Commission that fresh water was scarce in Lower Tachen, and that in the dry seasons a large number of residents lined up at the wells and ponds before dawn to fetch water. He said that a great deal of labour had been contributed by the local people to build a dozen wells and ponds in recent years and that a big reservoir was under construction. Now all of them had been destroyed by the Chiang Kai-shek army. The most severely damaged were seven of the wells and ponds, and the uncompleted reservoir. The reservoir, which was almost finished, was located at Polikeng. A four-metre section of the reservoir dam, which was about 10 metres high and 20 metres long, was blown out by explosives. Many tools and pipes and a great amount of steel and timber on the construction site had also been ruined by blasting.

Fire-gutted houses on Upper Tachen. They were set on fire by Chiang Kai-shek's troops at the time of their retreat



Members of the Investigating Commission inspecting the ruins of houses at Tashatou on Tachen Island





Houses destroyed by
the Chiang Kai-shek
army on the Tachens

Members of the Investigating Commission inspecting the ruins of houses on
the Tachens





A primary school razed by Chiang Kai-shek troops on Nanchi Island



U.S. army petrol drums found on the Tachens



Shop of a shoemaker
who was taken away
from his work

An unfinished meal left by one of the Tachen families ordered to leave
while they were still at their meal





Part of the clothes and belongings which Chiang's forces made the Tachen islanders abandon at the naval drill-ground when they were assembled for embarkation. This drill-ground was one of the main assembly points for the abduction of the islanders



Scattered belongings of the Nanchi islanders left when they were hustled on to the landing craft at Sanchiaoliao



Two Tachen islanders explain to members of the Investigating Commission how they had been arrested and locked up in this dark air raid shelter. Chiang Kai-shek's officials arrested many of the inhabitants and locked them up in order to terrorize the people into going to Taiwan



Wang Chi-chang (right), a Tachen Island victim, with his child's cap and shirt, tells two members of the Investigating Commission how the Chiang Kai-shek army abducted his wife and child

二月十四日 星期一 陰天
 最近的是非弄不好了，沒有一元是暗的，我到
 三聖廟走走，看見一些老百姓哭哭啼啼，有兒女的
 年紀過大的，胡長通說他，叫他馬上到大山山房。

二月十四日 星期一 陰天
 近幾天來，每天都是吃豬肉，吃得大菜，真是
 洋氣，可是對於老百姓，教不上去了，每條豬沒少養
 到大，他的希望才是多，多買錢，好給補反的，現在
 別無有，少請，這書，這子，這子。

Entries from two diaries left by Chiang Kai-shek soldiers on Nanchi Island. One diary seemed to have been that of an orderly. On February 14 he wrote: "... I went to Sanpanwei to pass on orders. Some of the people were crying. The village head told a few old villagers that they must collect at Tashan ... (one word illegible), and bring their belongings with them. None of them wanted to go."

Guarantee of Chain Responsibility. A tattered paper found by the Investigating Commission. On one side are the words: "People sharing chain responsibility should keep a close watch on each other." On the other side are printed regulations concerning collective punishments, which include "... imprisonment for not less than ten years or life."

增派人及保人，大處分如左
 不當檢察官，包庇，或慢吞吞，或治，致，亂，條，則，重，刑，處，罰
 刑無期，後，刑十年以上，有，重，徒刑
 不當檢察官，包庇，或慢吞吞，或治，致，亂，條，則，重，刑，處，罰
 不知，情，及，其，其，情，節，應，從，重，處，罰，不，下，法，律，者，處
 重，刑，處，罰

Cable from Chiang Kai-shek's Acting Chief of Staff, Peng Meng-chi: "... all must be evacuated to Taiwan. Have heard the Tachens have a few seriously ill and aged, whose evacuation to Taiwan is difficult. The President orders: all difficulties must be overcome. If necessary use stretchers to carry on board. Must evacuate to Taiwan. ..."

運上船必用運人
 因那必需用担架
 總後論 應排本任
 人運人 有困難 去邦
 二 大 隊 有 重 病 者 高 者

0207. 1540.

中華民國二十八年一月

極度經濟政府政省江津

民衆疏散旅行守則

- 一 服從隊長命令，違者公六次
- 二 集合、排隊、行進、乘船、行動忌遲
- 三 隨身攜帶行李物，應力求精簡
- 四 上下船時，應整隊列隊，不可爭先恐後
- 五 軍需人員，應自備行李，或委託
- 六 不准攜帶武器、毒藥、易爆物、毒品
- 七 不准爭吵、打架、不准高聲喧嘩
- 八 上船後，不准隨便吐痰、下注、擤鼻涕
- 九 大小便，應到指定廁所，不准到處便溺
- 十 在船上應遵守各項規章
- 十一 乘船時，應注意防範，不准任意更換
- 十二 到達台灣，要高興、熱烈，向歡迎人員致敬

This is the "Rules for Evacuation and on the Journey" issued by the Chiang Kai-shek army. The twelfth rule reads: "On arrival in Taiwan you must look happy and must give cheers of gratitude to those who come to welcome you."



Members of the Investigating Commission inspect pieces of American TNT picked up in these fishing boats wrecked by Chiang Kai-shek troops on Huokunao beach, Nanchi Island



Fishermen giving evidence to the Investigating Commission about the kidnapping of their relatives. These fishermen, who live on the Chekiang coast, were owners of the fishing boat "Hsinlienfa" which was captured with the crew by Chiang Kai-shek forces, and made to go to Nanchi Island. When Chiang's forces retreated from Nanchi 31 fishermen were abducted and the boat scuttled



A shop on the Tachens,
wrecked and looted by
Chiang Kai-shek's troops



A ruined porcelain shop on Tachen
Island



Chen Cheng-yi (left), one of the Tachen victims, tells members of the Investigating Commission his experiences. He charged Chiang Kai-shek troops with looting 200 bottles of soya sauce and 12 vats of wine from his shop



Members of the Investigating Commission of the Chinese Red Cross Society giving relief food and cloth to the Tachen islanders



Tachen islanders, who lost everything, carrying home relief rice issued by the Chinese Red Cross Society



A member of the Investigating Commission (holding baby) giving relief clothes and food to Wang Hsiang-hua, one of the Tachen Island victims, and her child



Members of the Investigating Commission of the Chinese Red Cross Society saying goodbye to the Tachen islanders before leaving for the mainland

Yeh Chien-lin, who had taken part in the building of the reservoir, said: "More than fifty villagers from Nantien, Nankengli and seven other villages had been working on the reservoir every day since August last." In six months, the local residents had put in nearly 10,000 work-days on it. The wrapper of an electric blasting cap, made by the Hercules Powder Company Incorporated, Wilmington, Delaware, USA, was found by the Commission among the rubble of the dynamited dam.

A thirteen-pound bundle of high explosive, with the fuse on it, made by the Trojan Powder Co., Allentown, Pennsylvania, was dug out by the Commission from the side of a dynamited pond at the foot of a hill southwest of Langtungmen.

There was a pond with an area of about six square metres by the road at Nantien in Lower Tachen. Mrs. Chia of Hsiao-kengli told the Commission: "This pond was dug at the beginning of the Anti-Japanese War. For ten years and more it was the main source of water for the hundred-odd families living nearby." The Commission found it full of dirty and torn Chiang Kai-shek uniforms, writing paper, bullets and worn-out towels marked "Kuomintang Army." The well on a square at Tashatou was also full of firewood, ammunition containers and dirt. The water in the well had turned black and gave off a revolting stench. The inner wall of the well was blackened by fire.

There was also a fresh-water reservoir on Yushan Island which was blown up by the Chiang Kai-shek troops. It was located at the foot of a hill south of Ta-ao on the island and was five metres long, three metres wide and one and a half metres deep. Spring water that flowed from the hills was collected and stored there. Mei Ah-ken, a fisherman, said that the reservoir had supplied water for the islanders of Ta-ao, Hsiao-ao and Hsinghua-ao. Now, the entire length of the wall to the north was destroyed, with slabs of broken concrete flung some ten metres away by the explosion. There was another fresh-

water reservoir dynamited near a lighthouse. This was about seven metres long, five metres wide and one deep. According to Mei Ah-ken, this reservoir was the only one to have water when all other sources of water had once failed after three rainless months. That, he said, was when he was eleven years old. It was, Mei added, a source of water not only for the inhabitants of the whole island but also for some 200 fishing boat crews that called regularly at the place.

Chiang Kai-shek's troops also poured petrol and dumped rubbish into the wells or at water sources at Tasha-ao, Shanchiaoliao, Shangpaimuping and Tatiehtung Villages on Nanchi Islands.

During its visit to Nankengli on Lower Tachen the Commission examined the site of what had been a hospital. It was the island's only civilian hospital and was burnt to the ground. Before it was burnt down it had covered an area of 180 square metres, and even the three small rooms that had escaped the fire had all their doors and windows smashed. Bundles of bandages and gauze, medicines and medical equipment were strewn about on the ground. A freshly-opened barrel of vaseline contained rotten weeds and dirt that had been mixed with it.

The three chief schools on Lower Tachen—the Chung Cheng Secondary School, Kochien Primary School and Kuomin School—were also destroyed or damaged. A wooden pillar in a classroom of the Chung Cheng Secondary School was burnt and charred, some corrugated iron had been torn from the wall of the room, and the various things that usually go to make a classroom were destroyed. Almost all the doors and windows of the Kochien Primary School were smashed, and two blackboards were left lying on the side of a road near the school gate. They had been cracked by trampling. The few desks that remained had their legs smashed, and the floor of the classroom was littered with torn pieces of charts and textbooks.

A primary school to the north of Tasha-ao on Nanchi Island was also burnt to the ground. The only things that

escaped the fire were some desks and benches made of stone.

Many temples on the Tachens were also dynamited by Chiang Kai-shek's troops. During the investigation, the Commission found that the majority of the islanders were Buddhists. There had been altogether 30 temples on the islands. Now the Kuan Yin Tang, Ti Tsang and Yang Fu Temples had been entirely destroyed by dynamite. The Niang Niang, Yu Sih, Wu Chang and Kuan Yin Temples, as well as the temples of Tu Ti, Ping Shui Ta Ti and Kuan Ti, each being two in number, also suffered damage of varying degree. The Kuan Yin Temple at Nankengli was dynamited and damaged so that its beams and pillars were lying across each other and the doors and windows thrown off their hinges. The head of the Avalokitesavara-Bodhisatva had fallen off, leaving only the wooden stake which supported it. The heads or arms of other deities were missing. The incense containers and the tables for them were nowhere to be seen. According to Lin Tse-ching, there were two monks in this temple. In May 1953, Chiang Kai-shek's troops wanted to press-gang them into the army. The monks were seen weeping and repeating "amita-Buddha," Lin added. Later, Buddhist followers on the islands collected money and bought their liberty. Now the two monks were also among those forcibly taken off to Taiwan. Mrs. Chia took the Commission to the Niang Niang Temple which had had the greatest number of women worshippers among the Tachen islanders. This temple, used by the Chiang Kai-shek navy as a warehouse, stank. The floor was littered with torn army coats, rotting tinned goods and night-soil left behind by the Chiang Kai-shek troops. The ceiling of the main hall of the temple had thirteen gaping holes and the clay figure of the chief goddess, Niang Niang, was left lying on the ground with a broken left arm. The lintel of the shrine, which had been decorated with carvings in various colours, was smashed. Mrs. Chia seemed to be deeply shaken by the scene. She said that formerly this

time of the year was the fishing season, and it was here that mothers, wives and daughters of men going to sea came to burn incense and pray to Niang Niang for the safety of their loved ones. Mrs. Chia said: "No one will come to burn incense now. They have all been taken away."

During its investigation of the Tachens, the Commission found that before they fled the islands the Chiang Kai-shek troops had laid many mines in places far from their fortifications. Mines were found in vegetable plots, wheat fields and the vicinity of houses and wells belonging to the civilian population. On their way to Langtungmen three members of the Commission nearly stepped on an uncleared mine in a wheat field near the highway.

In its investigation of the minefields the Commission was accompanied by Chen Yu-kun, a deputy company commander, Wu Hsiang-yun, a platoon leader, and Ying Kuan-kuei, a fighter of a unit of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. The Commission saw many holes from which mines had been cleared in the vegetable plots and wheat fields to the south, west and north of Hsiatsuitou Village on Lower Tachen. This village was almost entirely encircled by mines, the only strip of land free of them being that leading to the highway, although there were no military installations whatsoever in the village. The Commission undertook detailed investigation into the minefield northwest of Hsiatsuitou Village. It was about 300 metres long and 200 metres wide and was in the middle of a cultivated terraced field only ten metres from civilian houses. At present, the wheat in the field was a quarter of a metre high and the sappers of the Chinese People's Liberation Army had cleared the entire field of mines. But in the wheat field there still remained 390 mine holes. The distance between one hole and another was from one to one and a half metres, and between some the distance was only half a metre. Some of these mine holes were round while others were rectangular. Deputy Company Commander Chen Yu-kun pointed out that the

round ones were for mines of the M14 type and the rectangular ones for the M7 type.

The Commission made a study of three different types of mines dug up around this village and it was found that they were all made in the United States. On the casing of the M14 mine were found the markings "MINE APERS. NM. M14. WITH FUZE INTEGRAL PARTS MFR. BY LOP 15-75 3-54." Platoon Leader Wu Hsiang-yun pointed out that the casing of the M14 mine was entirely made of plastic and was used for the sole purpose of breaking legs. The M3 and M7 mines were made of metal. On the casing of the M3 mine were found the markings "MINE ANTI-PERSONNEL M3 LOADERS LOT KOP 1-13 6-1943." The M3 mine weighed about seven or eight pounds and its effective radius was ten metres. The M7 mine had on its casing the markings "MINE M7 A2 LOP. 1-11, 1-53."

Chiang Kai-shek's troops also mined the vicinity of villages that they had not entirely burnt down or destroyed. In the playground of the Chung Cheng Secondary School were found 43 M14 mines. M14 mines were also laid by Chiang Kai-shek's troops near Tsaihsing Spring at Shuangchia-ao on Upper Tachen. The spring was the source of water for the civilian population. At present, these areas have been almost completely cleared of mines. Deputy Company Commander Chen Yu-kun said that the People's Liberation Army cleared away a total of 7,497 mines on the islands in the week from February 13 to 21.

B. ROBBERY AND LOOTING

When visiting the thoroughfares and lanes at Tashatou, the shopping centre of Lower Tachen, the Commission found that the shops, warehouses and work places owned by the islanders had all been thoroughly looted. The doors and window shutters were nowhere to be seen, the sign boards and posters were either lying about in the gutters or flapping in the air. There had been some 2,000

traders in this district, handling such business as general provisions, gold and silversmiths, Cantonese goods, piece-goods, stationery, clocks and watches, hair-dressing, tailoring, tobaccos and spirits, food grain, restaurants and bath-houses. When Chiang Kai-shek's troops fled, they not only burnt down shops but demolished dwellings. Lin Ming-yao, proprietor of the Yi Lin Photographic Studio; Chen Cheng-yi, proprietor of the Chen Ta Hsing Soya-bean Sauce Shop; Cheng Kai-mei, proprietor of the Cheng Yi Hsing Tailor's; Su Ping-lin, shop assistant at the Chien Ta Store; and Lin Tse-ching, waiter at the Ta Chen Bath-house, all described to the Commission how Chiang's troops had wantonly smashed and plundered the shops on the Tachens. Many years ago this town, they said, had been subjected to continuous robbery and destruction by the warlords and the Japanese imperialists but none of their crimes could compare with the brutalities committed by Chiang's armed bands.

The Commission made a detailed investigation into Hsiao Kang Street—the most flourishing shopping centre. There had been 57 shops there, dealing in some twenty lines of business, including general stores, watchmakers, photographers, silversmiths, seal-engraving, pickles, sauce, butchers, restaurants, barbers, shoemakers and grain dealers. Over the door frames of the few department stores and general provisions shops still left, it was possible to see half a tag inscribed with the characters, "sealed by the proprietor." But the doors and windows had gone. The shops were now rubbish heaps, stinking to high heaven, with the glass stands and shelves broken, the floors littered with candles, toilet paper, chalk, paste and other cheap articles. Tattered military uniforms and trousers left by Chiang's soldiers were lying in the heaps of litter. Beside the shelves of a shoe shop about a dozen used military rubber shoes and brown padded shoes left by Chiang's troops were lying. In a food shop, the floor was littered with empty tins and wine bottles. Some bottles had more than half of their contents left, and some tins, although

opened, had only a small part of their contents used. Two American-made bayonets were found beside the empty tins. Furniture and the goods in a few pickle shops were all smashed. The vat containing salt-fish was broken, dried shrimps and salt-fish were scattered all over the place. The wooden barrels used as containers were upside down, and there was human excrement in some of them. There were also torn and abandoned military uniforms and hats. In Sung Ho Tang, a medical herb shop, 60 drawers containing medical drugs were opened, and the herbs flung on the floor. Almost all the medicine bottles in the Southeast Chemist's Shop were smashed. The looking glasses in the barbers' shops were broken, the backs of chairs knocked off, and the leather cushions pierced by bayonets in many places. Tables, chairs and kitchen stoves in many restaurants were smashed and the bottoms of a few small frying pans knocked out. In the rooms where the proprietors and shop assistants lived, locked boxes and cases had either had their tops smashed or had been broken open by removing their bottoms. Drawers were lying about on the floor, and there were bayonet holes in the paper ceilings and the walls.

Chen Cheng-yi also took the Commission to see his shop selling soya-bean sauce. The shop was closed down after he was arrested. At the time of his arrest, there were over 200 bottles of sauce on the shelves, besides 11 jugs of wine. On the day following the withdrawal of Chiang's troops, he was rescued by the Chinese People's Liberation Army on Yangchi Island where he was detained. Upon his return he found that his shop had been broken into, his wares both in the shop and in the warehouse had all disappeared and his ledgers had been torn to pieces. There was nothing left but slogans scrawled by Chiang's troops on the walls. It was also noticed that Chiang's soldiers had performed their natural functions everywhere in the courtyard. Cheng Kai-mei's tailor's shop was plundered completely. After he was thrown into prison, his 40-year-old wife and three children were left at home, his first

child aged eight, and the youngest just a year old. When he was arrested he had many things at home, but on coming back he found that his three sewing machines, except the frames, had been stolen, and his new suitcase, two fur gowns and three padded quilts were all gone. He wondered how a woman, travelling with three children, could have taken all these things. In the presence of the Commission, he found two padded military uniforms left by Chiang's soldiers and one sleeve from a fur gown. He was sure that the two military uniforms were left by Chiang's soldiers after they had stolen his own clothes. Then he led the Commission to look at the slogans scrawled by Chiang's soldiers on the walls and said: "The Kuo-mintang soldiers, not satisfied with what they have taken from me, have scrawled such slogans on the walls of my home!" He was in tears. He said he used to economize in food in and out of season. He could not bear to waste even a strip of cloth. Just a month before he and his wife had put their heads together about how best to improve their little business. He had never thought he would meet with such a calamity.

Wu Shih-hsiao, another victim, gave evidence to the Commission that on January 25, when the Chiang Kai-shek Office of the Special Commissioner for Administrative Supervision in the Tachen Area ordered the removal of the inhabitants to Taiwan, no person was allowed to carry more than 30 kilogrammes of luggage. The shops were compelled to sell what remained of their goods at greatly reduced prices. A wash basin which would fetch over ten Taiwan dollars was sold for less than two. What happened was that Chiang's soldiers rushed to the sales to make good purchases. Afterwards, the O.S.C.A.S.T.A. launched a "campaign to comfort the troops." Shop owners were forced to stick a bill over the door, saying, "All soldiers are welcome here to take whatever goods they like." On January 29, Chiang's soldiers forced a number of shop owners to take off the shop doors for use as planks to build a wharf. When the shops were thus open to all,

a sham air-raid alarm was sounded, thus forcing the owners and their assistants to run to the mountains for safety. Chiang's soldiers then quickly broke into the unguarded shops to help themselves at will. The transport station of Chiang's garrison headquarters on the Tachens allured the local tradesmen with the promise that those wishing to transport their goods to safety could do so on a 50-50 basis. Many shops were taken in and began to send their valuables to the agency's ships, but the thieving agency made no bones about appropriating all the goods entrusted to them.

The Commission also saw sad sights in the fishing villages and the rural areas after they had been robbed by Chiang Kai-shek's troops. All the way along and near the villages were seen heaps of damp and stinking poultry feathers, pig bristles and hog casings messed up with rice, dried potato slices and soya beans. The doors and windows of the fishermen's and peasants' homes were pushed open. Some door planks were gone while others were lying about inside the houses. Tables, chairs and stools were heaped in confusion, worn-out clothes, trousers, caps, shoes and socks were scattered along from the houses into the courtyards. Cases and chests were all smashed. There was nothing left but remnants of cloth, worn-out garments, a litter of papers, broken threads, buttons, and so on. The floor was strewn with military uniforms, shoes, belts, rifle lubricant, and even cartridges and hand grenades left by Chiang's soldiers.

In many villages on Lower Tachen not a pig, sheep or chicken was seen in the pen. Wang Meng-cheng, an islander who acted as guide for the Commission, said, "Before I was arrested by the Kuomintang, they were getting ready to leave by buying up big stocks of pigs, sheep and chickens at compulsory low prices. They told us that all islanders going to Taiwan were not going to be allowed to carry belongings above a fixed weight. After January 27, they made us kill all our pigs, sheep and chickens and sell them for Taiwan currency. The price of pork which

was usually 12 yuan (Taiwan currency) a catty was forced down to three. We had to kill all our animals and fowls, with tears in our eyes. Then the price of pork was pushed down to 1.50 yuan a catty (Taiwan currency)." Su Ping-lin, Cheng Kai-mei and other victims accused Chiang's troops of the same crimes. The Commission visited a peasant's home near Tashatou. Chen San-mei, head of the family, had been rescued from Yangchi Island by the Chinese People's Liberation Army. Rags, broken possessions, a few unwashed broken rice bowls, chopsticks and dishes were strewn all over his house. On the ground lay four planks from his bed; under the bed was an empty wine jar with a hole in it; the small cupboard was empty; in the cooking-pot was left a bowl of stinking bean sauce. In tears, Chen San-mei made his charges before the Commission. He said, "Before I was taken to the Police Station, sometime before the end of last year (lunar calendar), my wife and I had ground two pecks of sorghum flour, and we were going to buy a catty of pork and some fish to enjoy New Year. How could I know that I should be arrested without reason and my wife forcibly taken to Taiwan? Now, seeing my house as it is, how can I help weeping?"

When the Commission asked him whether he had his hoe, pick or other farm implements left, Chen threw open his palms and shook his head, "Nothing, nothing at all!"

Wang Shou-chien, a fisherman at Huangfuchiao on Lower Tachen, testified before the Commission that Chiang's troops had seized his fishing boat "Wulangku." He said, "While I was imprisoned on the Yangchi Island, I saw with my own eyes one of the Kuomintang's motor junks, escorted by a U.S. warship, towing my 'Wulangku' away." Wang went on to say that his fishing boat, which could carry 200 piculs of fish, had been bought for 560 silver dollars out of his savings from fishing over a period of forty-odd years. When his boat "Wulangku" was seized it contained over 2,000 catties of jelly-fish which he and five other fishermen families had caught and salted.

While carrying on investigations on Pishan, Yushan, Nanchi and other islands, the Commission found that Chiang's troops had also looted shops and the residents' property. The facts were confirmed by two diaries left behind by these troops. In one diary, which appeared to have belonged to a deputy leader of a squad, under February 12 was written: "In the last few days we have been eating pork every day to our heart's content. But it has been hard on the people. Every one of these pigs has been raised by them in the hope of earning some money. Now things have turned out just the other way. . . ." In another diary which appeared to have been written by an orderly, on February 20 was entered: "Today is Sunday. After lunch we all went to Houlung to watch the residents moving their belongings. . . . Our troops were acting wildly. One grabbed sweet potato, another grabbed vegetables. I can't describe how I felt. It's like the time when we were beaten on the mainland, grabbing everything at random and trying to make a fortune. . . ."

CONCLUSION

After having completed these investigations on the spot, with heavy hearts and irrepressible indignation, we must point out the following facts to the people of China and elsewhere:

The forcible uprooting of more than twenty thousand inhabitants from the Tachens and other islands by the U.S. armed forces and Chiang Kai-shek's troops is an act of extreme savagery and a crime against humanity. Instigated by the U.S. Government, Chiang Kai-shek's troops, with the participation of U.S. armed forces, used violent means to carry out this criminal scheme: they exercised iron control over the islanders, brutally forced them into submission, set fire to their homes and buildings, and plundered them wantonly. All the ways and means by which the islanders gained a living were destroyed suddenly at the hour appointed by the U.S. Government; all the normal, routine life of the islanders came to a sudden end also at that appointed hour. With tears streaming down their faces, the people on the Tachens and other islands were forced to leave the land which for generations and generations had been their home; to part with the property which little by little they had amassed by their sweat and blood. This uprooting of the population of the Tachens and other islands broke up happy homes; husbands lost their wives and young children their mothers.

The main responsibility for this heinous crime against humanity lies squarely on the U.S. Government. If the U.S. Government had not dispatched a naval and air task force twice as large as the population of the islands; if

the U.S. military authorities had not massed a vast fleet of transport vessels to take part in this abduction; if they had not provided large quantities of explosives and petroleum and sent demolition squads to take a direct part in arson and other acts of destruction; if, in fact, the U.S. Government had not been guilty of all this, then it would not have been possible for Chiang Kai-shek's troops to remove all the inhabitants on the Tachens and other islands by force to Taiwan, nor would it have been possible for them to cause such fearful havoc on the Tachens and other islands.

The Investigating Commission holds the view that the so-called peaceful evacuation which American propaganda is now trying so hard to convince the world must be exposed for what it was. It does so because the crime is absolutely incompatible with the principles of humanitarianism which the Red Cross Society must uphold.

For the sake of the lives of the twenty thousand people uprooted from the Tachens and other islands, for the sake of human conscience and justice, and to prevent such a disaster from ever striking any other peaceful land, we call on everyone to take practical action against this heinous crime committed against humanity by the U.S. Government.