

Benjamin O. Davis Jr. Collection - Newsclippings (12/5)

Extracted on Mar-28-2024 03:37:10

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PHOTOCOPIED October 2, 2002; NASM PRESERVATION COPY

[[newspaper clipping]]

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China Post

Vol. 3, No. 1186 [[Chinese characters]] Taipei, Thursday, December 8, 1955.

Davis: CAF Adds to Allied Power By Curbing Red Expansion in SE Asia

Taipei, Dec. 7 (UP) General Benjamin Davis, U.S. Air Force chief in Formosa, said today Nationalist China's powerful Air Force was making a great contribution to allied strength by helping prevent Communist expansion in Southeast Asia.

The commander of the 13th Air Task Force on Formosa told UP that combined U.S. and Chinese air units on Formosa were "very potent" but an attack on the island might necessitate additional American air reinforcements. he said preparations had been made to receive such reinforcements if necessary at existing airfields on very short notice.

General Davis said the buildup of Red Chinese jet-fields opposite Formosa "definitely pose a threat to Taiwan because of their adjacency to us. They must be watched constantly minute by minute."

He said at present the Communists had no aircraft on fields opposite Formosa but added they could move planes onto the completed fields "tonight and operate from them tomorrow morning."

He said that American bases on Taiwan were defensive only.

"We do not know why these bases (Red China's) being built opposite us. They could be defensive and on the other hand they could be offensive. They are making a serious effort in building airfields and placing troops near Matsu and Quemoy islands. It would seem that they have some intention."

General Davis was unreserved in his praise of Nationalist China's Air Force under General Wang Shu-ming.

He said a "vast improvement" had been made by the Nationalist Air Force in recent months in installing and using modern equipment.



"They represent a very powerful adjutant to U.S. airpower in this part of the world. Without it we would be hard pressed to fill the vacuum.

"They represent a real contribution to allied air strength. Their contribution in preventing Red expansion in Southeast Asia is great [[/newspaper clipping]]

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