

October 6, 1958

Letter from the [PRC] Minister of Defense [Peng Dehuai] to Taiwanese Compatriots

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Summary:

During the Second Taiwan Strait Crisis, the PRC Minister of Defense urges the Nationalists to negotiate with the CCP, arguing that the Americans will eventually abandon them.

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国防部长告台湾同胞书

(一九五八年十月六日)

台湾、澎湖、金門、馬祖军民同胞们，

我们都是中国人，三十六计，和为上计。金門战斗，属于惩罚性质。你们的领导者们过去长时期太猖狂了，命令飞机向大陆乱鑽，远及云、贵、川、康、青海，发传单、丢特务、炸福州、扰江浙。是可忍、孰不可忍？因此打一些炮，引起你们注意。台、澎、金、馬是中国的领土。这一点你们是同意的，见之于你们领导人的文告，确实不是美国的领土。台、澎、金、馬是中国的一部分，不是另一个国家。世界上只有一个中国，没有两个中国。这一点也是你们同意的，见之于你们领导人的文告。你们领导人与美国人订立军事协定，是片面的，我们不承认，应予废除。美国人总有一天肯定要抛弃你们的，你们不信吗？历史的巨人会要做出证明的。杜勒斯九月三十日的谈话，端倪已见。站在你们的地位，能不寒心？归根结

底，美帝国主义是我们共同的敌人。十三万金門军民供应缺乏，飢寒交迫，难为久计。为了人道主义，我已命令福建前线，从十月六日起暂以七天为期，禁止炮击，你们可以充分地自由地输送供应品，但以沒有美国人护航为条件。如有护航不在此例。你们与我们之间的战争，三十余年了，尚未结束，这是不好的。建议举行谈判，实行和平解决。这一点，周总理已在几年前告诉你们了。这是中国内部贵我两方有关问题，不是中美两国有关问题。美国侵略台、澎、与台湾海峡，这是中美两国有关问题，应当由两国谈判解决，目前正在华沙举行。美国人总是要走的，不走是不行的。早走于美国有利，因为他们可以取得主动。迟走不利，因为他老是被动。一个东太平洋国家，为什么跑到西太平洋来了呢？西太平洋是西太平洋人的西太平洋，正如东太平洋是东太平洋人的东太平洋一样，这一点是常识，美国人应当懂得。中华人民共和国与美国之间并无战争，无所谓停火。无火而谈停火，岂非废话了？台湾的朋友们，我们之间是有战火的，应当停止，并予熄灭。这就需要谈判。当然，再打三十年，也不是什么了不起的大事，但是究竟以早日和平解决为妥善。何去何从，請你们酌定。

The Minister of Defense's [Peng Dehuai] Proclamation to Taiwan Compatriots
(October 6, 1958)

Military and Civilian Compatriots on Taiwan, Penghu [Islands], Jinmen, Mazu:

We are all Chinese; of the thirty-six stratagems, Peace is the best. The battle for Jinmen is of a punitive nature. Your leaders have for a long time been too outrageous, directing aircraft to fly all over the mainland, reaching as far as Yunnan, Guizhou, Sichuan, Xikang, Qinghai, where they scattered leaflets, dropped spies, bombed Fujian, and harassed Jiangsu and Zhejiang. This is beyond intolerable. Therefore, we fired a few cannons, to get your attention. Taiwan, Penghu, Jinmen and Mazu are Chinese territory. On this point you agree, as can be seen in your leader's statements, and they are definitely not American territory. Taiwan, Penghu, Jinmen and Mazu are part of China, and not a separate country. There is only one China in the world, there are not two Chinas. On this point you also agree, as can be seen in your leader's statements. Your leader has signed a military agreement with the Americans, which is one-sided, we don't accept it, and it ought to be invalidated. The Americans will certainly one day abandon you, don't you believe it? The giant that is history will bear evidence to this. The clue is already exposed in Dulles' September 30 interview. Can you not shiver, standing in your position? After all, American imperialism is our common enemy. 130,000 soldiers and civilians on Jinmen are running out of supplies, suffering from cold and hunger. They cannot go on in this condition. For humanitarian reasons, I have already ordered the front lines in Fujian [to observe] a one week temporary cease fire, starting on October 6, so that you can completely and freely transport supplies, on the condition that there is no American convoy. If there is a convoy then it won't apply. This war between us has already been going on for more than thirty years and still hasn't ended, and that is not good. We propose holding negotiation, to achieve a peaceful settlement. Several years ago Premier Zhou [Enlai] had already told you about this. This is China's internal affair, a problem between our two sides, it isn't a bilateral problem involving the United States and China. The U.S. occupation of Taiwan, Penghu, and the Taiwan Straits - that is a bilateral problem between the United States and China, which ought to be resolved through negotiations between the two countries, and there are currently talks being held in Warsaw. The Americans will have to leave one day, there is no alternative. It would be in the Americans' interest to leave earlier, because they would retain the initiative. Leaving later won't be good [for them] because they will be forced. Why did an Eastern Pacific country come to the Western Pacific? The Western Pacific is the Western Pacific people's Western Pacific, just the same as the Eastern Pacific is the Eastern Pacific people's Eastern Pacific, this is just common sense, and the Americans ought to understand it. There is no war between the People's Republic of China and the United States, so there is no so-called cease-fire. To talk about a cease-fire where there is no fire, isn't it plain nonsense? Friends on Taiwan, there are the fires of war between us, which ought to stop, and be extinguished. This will require negotiations. Of course, to fight for another thirty years would be no big deal, but ultimately it would be preferable to come to an early peaceful resolution. Please, it's up to you to decide where you want to go.

[Peng Dehuai]