NSC BRIEFING

1 December 1954

CHINESE OFFSHORE ISLANDS

I. Commie harassment Nationalist islands expected continue through winter.

A. Amphib assaults on even major islands possible any time, but Commies still seem uncertain about US intentions.

B. Moreover, assault of Tachens or Quemys costly even against Nats alone.

II. Of major groups, Tachens most vulnerable to Commie harassment, because at end of Taipei's longest supply line (plus 200 mi).

A. Commie air can hamper Tachens supply.
B. Commies could also hamper supply with artillery on islands north and west.

C. Loss of Nat DE near Tachens (14 Nov) may discourage Taipei from risking other guard vessels, make both islands and shipping more vulnerable to Commie naval fire.

D. Morale of Nats in Tachens could be weakened by capture of outlying islands (Yushans, Ichiang, Pishan, Nanchishan) most of which bombed during Nov.

E. Under such pressures, Taipei might decide withdraw Tachens garrison.
III. Similar harassment could be extended to Matsus, Quemoys.

A.

B. Quemoys shelled intermittently throughout November.

IV. Commie action against Wuchiu--isolated and unimportant island between Quemoys and Matsus--was greatly exaggerated by press.

A.

B.

C. Was third such shelling Wuchiu this year.
F. However, Commies believed they have three to six subs based at Tsingtao.