

**HANDLE VIA TALENT  
CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY**

TCS-3642-53  
20 October 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Ad Hoc Requirements Committee

SUBJECT : Urgent Requirement for TALENT Coverage  
of Indications Targets in Communist  
China.

This office believes that there is an urgent requirement for photographic coverage of targets in Communist China for indications of Chicom intentions to undertake further military action in the Taiwan Straits area.

Resumption of the shelling of Quemoy demonstrates the continued warlike posture of the Chinese Communists and their readiness to use military means in pursuit of their objectives. These objectives include the establishment, in the near future, of Chicom hegemony over the Offshore Islands. One cannot overlook the possibility that military force might be used against one or more of these islands. The temptation to attempt such a gambit might be heightened by the hope of achieving a rapid seizure, presenting the world with a fait accompli, and implying the military weakness of the United States to prevent it. The Chicom could be expected to blame the U.S. for frustrating the evolution of peace in the Far East by having failed to compel the withdrawal of Chiang's forces.

The islands in the Matsu Group could well be the target of such a coup.

Specifically required at this time are:

(a) indications of the build-up of Chicom amphibious capabilities in the Foochow - Santu Bay area,

(b) evidence of the build-up of naval forces in the coastal areas from Foochow to Shanghai,

(c) information on the deployment of air strength - particularly jet light bombers - in the Hangchow - Shanghai - Nanking - Manchang areas,

**HANDLE VIA TALENT  
CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY**

**TOP SECRET**

**TOP SECRET**

**HANDLE VIA TALENT  
CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY**

(d) comparative data on build-up of ground force strength in the Fukien Military District.

The banning of all aerial reconnaissance activity in the China area has severely limited our intelligence appreciation of current Chicom capabilities and intentions. Our very susceptibility to surprise places the U.S. at a disadvantage in the contest for support in the court of world opinion. Moreover, the responsibility of the intelligence community with respect to warnings of the imminence of hostilities - the "Watch" function - compel us to press this requirement with all proper forcefulness.



50X1

HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON  
Assistant Director,  
Current Intelligence

JCH:av

**HANDLE VIA TALENT  
CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY**

**TOP SECRET**