

Taiwan-dom.pol.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

02-May-1990 07:57 EDT

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JNET%"PAAL@VAXC"@WHSR"@MRGATE

FROM:

VMSMail User _JNET%"WHSR
(_JNET%"WHSR@WHSR"@MRGATE)

SUBJECT:

Received: From WHSR(WHSR) by VAXC with Jnet id 6917
for PAAL@VAXC; Wed, 2 May 90 07:57 EST
Date: Wed, 2 May 90 07:52 EST
From: <WHSR@WHSR>
To: PAAL@VAXC
Original_To: JNET%"PAAL@VAXC"

<DIST>

SIT: PAAL MOORER

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900502074249

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021145 POL :BC-TAIWAN-PREMIER (SCHEDULED)

TAIWAN PRESIDENT NOMINATES DEFENSE MINISTER AS NEW PREMIER
BY ANDREW QUINN

TAIPEI, MAY 2, REUTER - TAIWAN PRESIDENT LEE TENG-HUI ON
WEDNESDAY NAMED DEFENSE MINISTER HAU PEI-TSUN TO BE THE NEXT
PREMIER, A SENIOR NATIONALIST PARTY OFFICIAL SAID.

HAU, A FORMER CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF, IS A TOUGH SOLDIER WHO
COMMANDS FIERCE LOYALTY WITHIN THE NATIONALIST ARMED FORCES BUT
WHO HAS LITTLE EXPERIENCE IN POLITICS.

LEE INFORMED HAU OF HIS DECISION BEFORE A MEETING OF THE
NATIONALIST PARTY'S CENTRAL STANDING COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY AND
HAU ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION, NATIONALIST PARTY DEPUTY SPOKESMAN
CHU TZONG-KO SAID.

CHU SAID THE PRESIDENT CHOSE HAU TO ENSURE INTERNAL
POLITICAL STABILITY AND TO CALM FEARS AMONG NATIONALIST PARTY
VETERANS THAT HE INTENDS TO PROMOTE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE FOR
THE ISLAND.

"I WILL DEDICATE MY LIFE TO THE SERVICE OF MY PARTY AND MY
COUNTRY. I WILL ACCEPT THE PRESIDENT'S NOMINATION," HAU TOLD
REPORTERS AFTER THE MEETING.

A FOUR-STAR GENERAL, HAU WAS THE MUSCLE BEHIND THE CHIANG FAMILY DYNASTY, BEGUN BY THE LATE GENERALISSIMO CHIANG KAI-SHEK, WHICH RULED TAIWAN FOR ALMOST FOUR DECADES.

HE IS A POLITICAL CONSERVATIVE WHO SHARES CHIANG KAI-SHEK'S DREAM OF A UNITED CHINA AND REJECTS ANY TALK OF INDEPENDENCE FOR TAIWAN'S 20 MILLION PEOPLE.

HAU WOULD REPLACE LEE HUAN. POLITICAL ANALYSTS SAID THEY BELIEVED THAT LEE TENG-HUI WANTED TO DROP LEE HUAN BECAUSE THE PREMIER CHALLENGED HIS EFFORTS TO CONCENTRATE POWER IN THE HANDS OF THE PRESIDENCY AND FOUGHT FOR GREATER CABINET CONTROL.

THE NOMINATION, WHICH MUST BE CONFIRMED BY PARLIAMENT, WILL TAKE EFFECT AFTER LEE IS INAUGURATED TO HIS FIRST FULL-TERM AS PRESIDENT ON MAY 20.

LEE BECAME PRESIDENT IN JANUARY, 1988, AFTER THE DEATH OF CHIANG CHING-KUO, SON OF CHIANG KAI-SHEK.

HE IS TAIWAN'S FIRST NATIVE-BORN PRESIDENT BUT HAS NEVER BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE NATIONALIST OLD GUARD WHO HAVE LINGERING SUSPICIONS THAT HE MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO BOW TO POLITICAL REALITIES AND MOVE TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE.

THE NATIONALISTS, WHO IN 1949 WERE DRIVEN TO TAIWAN FROM CHINA BY COMMUNIST FORCES, STILL CLAIM TO BE THE LEGITIMATE RULERS OF ALL CHINA AND REGARD TAIWAN AS SIMPLY A PROVINCE UNDER THEIR CONTROL. BEIJING ALSO MAINTAINS TAIWAN MUST ONE DAY BE REUNITED WITH THE MAINLAND.

BORN IN CHINA'S JIANGSU PROVINCE IN 1919, HAU SERVED AS CHIEF AIDE TO CHIANG KAI-SHEK IN THE 1960S AND QUICKLY MOVED UP THROUGH THE RANKS.

HE BECAME DEFENSE MINISTER LAST DECEMBER AFTER AN EIGHT-YEAR STINT AS CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF.

HAU'S NOMINATION PUTS AN END TO A FRENZY OF RUMOUR AND SPECULATION OVER THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEXT PREMIER, WHICH HAS SHAKEN TAIWAN'S VOLATILE STOCK MARKET AND SET OFF A ROUND OF FACTIONAL MANOEUVERING.

THE RUMOURS GAINED STEAM ON MONDAY WHEN LEE TOLD A GROUP OF LEGISLATORS HE WANTED AS PREMIER "A NEW MAN, CAPABLE OF BREAKTHROUGHS, WITH DETERMINATION AND A LONG-TERM VIEW."

SCHOLARS SAID ON WEDNESDAY THAT HAU'S STRONG MILITARY TIES MAY HURT HIM. OPPOSITION POLITICIANS AND MAGAZINES HAVE LABELLED HAU A POTENTIAL MILITARY STRONGMAN IN THE CHIANG FAMILY MOLD.

"MANY PEOPLE WILL THINK THIS IS NOT GOOD FOR TAIWAN'S IMAGE, PUTTING A MILITARY FIGURE IN A VERY IMPORTANT POLITICAL POST," SAID LU YA-LI, A PROFESSOR OF POLITICS AT NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY.

"THE (OPPOSITION) DEMOCRATIC PROGRESSIVE PARTY IS GOING TO BE VERY UPSET," HE SAID.

OTHER POLITICAL ANALYSTS SAID LEE'S CHOICE WAS ASTUTE.

THEY SAID IT WILL SEND A MESSAGE TO FRIGHTENED BUSINESSMEN THE GOVERNMENT IS SERIOUS ABOUT CRACKING DOWN ON SOCIAL UNREST, CALM NATIONALIST ELDERS AND REMOVE LEE HUAN, SEEN AS A SERIOUS POLITICAL THREAT TO LEE TENG-HUI.

"TAIWAN MUST APPOINT A STRONG MAN TO SURVIVE AND TO ACHIEVE STABILITY, AND HAU CAN DO IT," SAID ONE SENIOR NATIONALIST PARTY OFFICIAL WHO ASKED NOT TO BE NAMED.

REUTER AQ AMB KC

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