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SERIAL: (U) IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424

TEXT

COUNTRY: (U) CHINA (CH); TAIWAN (TW).

COMBINE: COMPLETE

SUBJ: IIR TENSIONS IN BEIJING,  
ASSESSMENTS OF SENIOR LEADERS (U)

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WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY  
EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 960402.

REQS: (U) (b)(3):50 USC 403-1

SOURCE: (b)(1),1.4 (c)  
(b)(1),1.4 (c)

SUMMARY: THE MAIN SUPPORT FOR MILITARY PRESSURE ON TAIWAN  
IN THE CMC CAME FROM ((ZHANG)) WANNIAN. STRATEGIC ROCKET  
FORCES ALSO PUSHED FOR MISSILE LAUNCHES. ((LIU)) HUAQING ALSO  
SUPPORTED STRONG ACTION. BEIJING SECURITY SITUATION  
TIGHTENING OVER "QING MING" FESTIVAL.

TEXT: 1. (b)(1),1.4 (c) IT WAS THE FORMER CHIEF OF THE  
GENERAL STAFF DEPARTMENT (GSD) AND CURRENT CENTRAL MILITARY  
COMMISSION (CMC) VICE CHAIRMAN, GENERAL ((ZHANG)) WANNIAN, WHO  
PUSHED HARDEST FOR STRONG MILITARY PRESSURE AGAINST TAIWAN.  
SENIOR CMC VICE CHAIRMAN ((LIU)) HUAQING LENT HIS FULL  
SUPPORT. HOWEVER, (b)(1),1.4 (c) LIU IS NOT ALWAYS  
COMPLETELY LUCID, MAKING IT EASY FOR ZHANG TO MANEUVER LIU.  
DESPITE THE FACT THAT ZHANG WANNIAN HOLDS THE POSITION OF

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THIRD CMC VICE CHAIRMAN, BEHIND LIU HUAQING AND ((ZHANG)) ZHEN, ZHANG WANNIAN REALLY RUNS THE PLA ON A DAY TO DAY BASIS. THAT IS WHY ZHANG WANNIAN WAS IN CHARGE OF THE EXERCISES IN THE NANJING THEATER OF OPERATIONS. GENERAL ((FU)) QUANYOU, WHO REPLACED ZHANG WANNIAN AS CHIEF OF THE GSD, IS REALLY ONLY A FIGUREHEAD AT THE PRESENT TIME. HE DEFERS COMPLETELY TO ZHANG WANNIAN, AND ZHANG RUNS THE PLA.

b)(1),1.4  
c) 2. ~~(c)~~ MOST PLA OFFICERS [REDACTED] CANNOT UNDERSTAND ALL OF THE FOREIGN CONCERN OVER THE FIRING OF BALLISTIC MISSILES DURING THE EXERCISES. THESE OFFICERS THINK THAT BECAUSE BEIJING MADE A CLEAR PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE MISSILES WERE INTENDED TO LAND IN AN CLOSURE ZONE, AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THAT THE MISSILES WOULD CARRY NO WARHEADS, FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS HAD NO REASON TO BE CONCERNED. (b)(1),1.4 (b)(1),1.4 ( NEITHER THE PLA AIR FORCE NOR THE PLA NAVY PUSHED FOR THE EXERCISES. THEY WERE "DRAGGED ALONG" INTO THE EXERCISES BY THE GSD AND THE GROUND FORCES LEADERSHIP, ON THE ORDER OF ZHANG WANNIAN. (b)(1),1.4 (c) THE STRATEGIC ROCKET FORCES PUSHED HARD FOR THE EXERCISES AND THE USE OF THE MISSILES. (b)(1),1.4 (c) THERE IS NO PERCEPTION OF ANY DAMAGE TO CHINA'S INTERNATIONAL POSITION OR REPUTATION FROM THE EXERCISES. (b)(1),1.4 (c) BELIEVE THAT THE EXERCISES WERE EFFECTIVE IN SENDING A SUFFICIENT MESSAGE, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME, THE PLA CLEARLY COMMUNICATED TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD THAT THIS WAS JUST A SHOW.

3. ~~(c)~~ THE OFFICER CORPS OF THE PLA IS RELATIVELY SATISFIED WITH ((JIANG)) ZEMIN AS A LEADER, (b)(1),1.4 (c) DESPITE SOME CONTINUED GRUMBLING OVER THE FACT THAT JIANG HAS NO MILITARY EXPERIENCE, HE HAS PROVEN TO BE A CAPABLE LEADER WITH THE ABILITY TO MANAGE THE COUNTRY AND THE ARMY. MOREOVER, (b)(1),1.4 (c) NO ONE ELSE MIGHT EMERGE AS A LEADER WHO HAS ANY MILITARY EXPERIENCE. (b)(1),1.4 (c) ((QIAO)) SHI IS VIEWED VERY FAVORABLY, AND HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN VISITING OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL AS IN LEADING THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS (NPC). THE NPC IS NOW SEEN AS AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION THAT IS ENACTING GOOD LAWS. (b)(1),1.4 (c) ((LI)) RUIHUAN IS SEEN AS A VERY EFFECTIVE LEADER, BUT NEITHER LI RUIHUAN NOR QIAO SHI ARE SEEN AS ACTIVELY CHALLENGING JIANG ZEMIN. TURNING THE CONVERSATION TO ((LI)) PENG, (b)(1),1.4 (c) LI PENG IS VIEWED BY PLA OFFICERS AS IGNORANT. (b)(1),1.4 (c) ONE SPEECH BY LI PENG WHERE LI WAS READING EVERY WORD, HAD TO TURN THE PAGE IN THE MIDDLE OF WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A FOUR CHARACTER SLOGAN THAT EVERYONE KNEW BY HEART, AND HAD TO PAUSE BETWEEN THE SECOND AND THE THIRD CHARACTER BECAUSE HE WAS READING ALONG BLINDLY.

4. ~~(c)~~ TURNING TO POTENTIAL CHALLENGES TO JIANG ZEMIN, (b)(1),1.4 (c) THE GENERAL SECURITY SITUATION IN BEIJING IS BEGINNING TO TIGHTEN. THIS IS CAUSED BY TWO FACTORS. FIRST, THERE IS SOME JOCKEYING FOR LEADERSHIP IN THE PARTY. THERE IS SOME CRITICISM OVER FOREIGN REACTION TO THE TAIWAN STRAIT EXERCISES, BUT MOST OF THE TENSION STILL RELATES TO DEEP DISSATISFACTION OVER CORRUPTION IN THE PARTY. THIS

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ENHANCES THE POSITION OF NPC LEADERS LIKE QIAO SHI AND LI RUIHUAN, BECAUSE THE NPC IS INCREASINGLY SEEN AS AN ORGANIZATION OPERATING ACCORDING TO LAW. (b)(1),1.4 (c) HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF TRADITION ARE HARD TO CHANGE, AND CHINA MAY NEVER BE A COUNTRY THAT OPERATES UNDER A STRONG LEGAL SYSTEM.) (b)(1),1.4 (c) THE REASON THAT JIANG ZEMIN SENT QIAO SHI, LI PENG, AND LI RUIHUAN OVERSEAS NOW IS TO ENSURE THAT HE, JIANG, IS IN BEIJING AT THE TIME THAT CRITICISM AND TENSION MAY GROW. THIS PUT POTENTIAL CHALLENGERS OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

5. ~~(6)~~ THE SECOND FACTOR LEADING TO A TIGHTENING OF THE SECURITY SITUATION IN BEIJING IS THE SEASON, BEGINNING WITH "QING MING" ON 5 APRIL, DURING WHICH LEADERS BEGIN THEIR ANNUAL WORRY OVER PROTESTS (APRIL 15TH, MAY 4TH, AND JUNE 4TH). BECAUSE "QING MING" IS THE FESTIVAL WHERE CHINESE HONOR THEIR DEAD RELATIVES AND ANCESTORS, AND INCLUDES TAKING EITHER FLOWERS OR SYMBOLIC PRESENTS INCLUDING PAPER MONEY TO THE GRAVES OF THE DEAD, TENSIONS IN BEIJING AND AROUND CHINA BEGIN TO GROW. (b)(1),1.4 (c) THIS MEANS THAT THE PEOPLE BEGIN TO THINK OF ALL THE REASONS THAT PEOPLE HAVE DIED, INCLUDING AT THE HANDS OF THE PARTY DURING THE ANTI-RIGHTIST CAMPAIGN, THE GREAT LEAP FORWARD, THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND THE TIANANMEN MASSACRE. THIS MAKES PARTY LEADERS VERY NERVOUS. (b)(1),1.4 (c) THE PRESSURE IS BUILDING IN WORK UNITS AND PARTY PEOPLE ARE WATCHING EACH OTHER MORE CLOSELY. (b)(1),1.4 (c) SECURITY IN BEIJING WILL GET EVEN TIGHTER AS MAY 4TH APPROACHES.

COMMENTS: 1. ~~(6)~~ (b)(1),1.4 (c)

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