

1949

Speeches/Documents

Title: Telegram to Stalin

Author: Mao Zedong

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Source: *The Soviet Union and Communist China, 1945-1950: The Arduous Road to the Alliance. Pg.213*

Description: Training PLAAF

The difficulties have constantly been growing worse in Shanghai since the blockade. But in order to break the blockade Formosa must be conquered. But it would be impossible to take it without an air force. We would like you to exchange ideas with General Stalin to see whether the USSR can grant us aid in this area, i.e., whether it can train 1,000 pilots and 300 technical workers in the flight repair services for us in Moscow within six months to a year. In addition, whether the USSR can sell us 100 to 200 fighters and 40 to 80 bombers to be employed in the military conquest of Formosa, We also request the USSR to help us in the field of developing a navy. We are assuming that in the second half of next year, i.e., at the time of the attack by our troops on Formosa, we will have occupied the entire territory of the Chinese mainland with the exception of Tibet.^{5b4}

The anti-imperialist movement in Europe and in other parts of the world maybe moving forward, it is also possible that an economic crisis is breaking out in America and England. If we use help from the USSR to conquer Formosa in this case (i.e, given the fact that we are asking the USSR to help us train pilots and to sell us airplanes and that we also have to ask the USSR to send us specialists from the Soviet air force and navy and pilots to participate in the military operations)—will this not damage mutual relations between America and the USSR'?