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Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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MR. MANSFIELD: In response to the question raised by Mr. Lodge, I think it ought to be clearly understood that Mr. Tsiang, the chief delegate from China to the United States, made a statement that Formosa did not need any military assistance.

I have one further statement. I want to associate myself with Mr. Ribicoff. I think the Secretary of State has certainly done his utmost, as much as any one man could possibly do, to bring home to the people of the country the danger which we face. However, I am very much appalled at the way too many people in Congress make a clay pigeon out of the State Department and use it for political purposes. They think it is easy and they can get away with it, but they do not realize when they are doing that they undermine the instrument which typifies this country to the world, and I hope we can give the Secretary the support which he is certainly entitled to in this terrible responsibility he has.

CHAIRMAN KEE: Mr. Merrow—

MR. MERROW. I hope it will be possible for us to hear the Secretary in executive session some time in the near future, because it would be most helpful to go over these many items that he does not feel he can discuss in public session.

CHAIRMAN KEE. I was going to speak to that point. I think the Secretary has been very generous for a man as busy as he is, to offer to come here in executive session, and give us the benefit of information which he does not feel he can give to us in public, and I will be very glad
to make an arrangement with him at his convenience if the committee so desires, and to have him here at the earliest possible date that we can arrange such a meeting.

MR. JUDD: I feel under obligation to make one short statement in view of what Mr. Mansfield has said:

I too deplore the low regard in which the State Department is held throughout the country but I must say for the record that nobody has done so much to undermine it, as much as the Secretary has, at a public statement, which I must condemn as an official attitude. I think that did more to undermine the State Department and his usefulness as a very brilliant and able and determined man than all the carpings of this, that or the other group, or including myself, could possibly do. I feel I must say that.

CHAIRMAN KEE. I do not think the Secretary would care to comment on that.

SECRETARY ACHESON. No.