Overview of the Wang Yue-che Papers

Finding aid prepared by Hoover Institution Archives Staff
Hoover Institution Archives
434 Galvez Mall
Stanford University
Stanford, CA, 94305-6010
(650) 723-3563
hooverarchives@stanford.edu
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Title: Wang Yue-che papers
Date (inclusive): 1969-2009
Collection Number: 2013C33
Contributing Institution: Hoover Institution Archives
Language of Material: Chinese
Physical Description: 2 manuscript boxes (0.8 linear feet)
Abstract: Memoirs, correspondence, reports, military documents, personal documents, and photographs, relating to West German military assistance to Taiwan.
Location note: Hoover Institution Archives.
Creator: Wang, Yue-che, 1944-
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Wang Yue-che papers, [Box no.], Hoover Institution Archives
Biographical/Historical note
Yue-che Wang was a colonel in the Republic of China army, an aide-de-camp to General Oskar Munzel, and a military adviser to Chiang Kai-shek.
For decades after his defeat by the Chinese Communists in 1949, Chiang Kai-shek relied heavily and almost exclusively on the United States to defend and consolidate his island redoubt, Taiwan, against the communist invasion. Under the facade of an ostensibly formidable US-Taiwan alliance during the cold war, however, Chiang would, from time to time, turn to his erstwhile enemies in World War II for military advice. In the early 1950s, he covertly employed former Japanese officers to educate his army officers. Beginning in the early 1960s, Chiang hired former German officers as his "personal advisers" to train, lecture, and assess the Taiwanese military forces; Wang was an aide-de-camp to one of them. Led by Oskar Munzel, a highly decorated Generalmajor in the Wehrmacht during World War II, and General der Kampftruppen of the Bundeswehr, who commanded all German army combat troops after the war, as well as Paul Jordan and Kurt Kauffmann, the "personal advisers" played a crucial role in reforming Taiwan's armored forces, bridging military cooperation between Bonn and Taipei, and transforming the mind-set of Chiang's military echelons. The German group was still at work well into the mid-1970s, after Taiwan was expelled from the United Nations and Bonn normalized its relations with the People's Republic of China. It came to a stop only after Chiang Kai-shek died in April 1975.
Scope and Contents note
The papers include correspondence, reports, memoranda, and minutes of the German military advisers and their meetings, as well as photos depicting their underground activities in Taiwan. Also in this collection are dozens of rare photos depicting the naval activities from the late Qing dynasty to the 1950s in the Republic of China, when Wang's grandfather was serving in the Chinese Navy.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Munzel, Oskar.
Germany (West)--Military relations--Taiwan.
Taiwan--Armed Forces.
Taiwan--Military relations--Germany (West)