The Chinese have continually claimed that Taiwan was returned to China in late October 1945, at the completion of the Japanese surrender ceremonies. However, an official Central Intelligence Agency report from March 1949 confirms that Taiwan is territory under military occupation.

[PAUSE ON SCREEN]

 We asked one of our reporters to interview a number of experts in the Washington D.C. area who regularly write on Taiwan issues. She filed this report:

[PAUSE ON SCREEN]

 Well, unfortunately, trying to explain the content in the 1949 CIA Report on Taiwan this way is entirely incorrect. The doctrine of “military occupation” under international law has a very specific meaning and application. It has no direct correspondence to the general notion of a “military dictatorship.” Military occupation has different stages, and one is commonly called “friendly occupation” or “civil affairs administration.”

[PAUSE ON SCREEN]

 So, we can firmly establish that Taiwan was not returned to China in late October 1945. That date only marks the beginning of the military occupation, and international law states that “military occupation does not transfer sovereignty.”

However, the websites of many of the leading think-tanks take it for granted that the territorial sovereignty of Taiwan was returned to China in 1945, and then base all of their analysis on that premise.

[PAUSE ON SCREEN]

 We have produced a short film clip which reviews the history of Taiwan and offers a new perspective for discussing the Republic of China’s qualifying criteria for “statehood” under international law.

[PAUSE ON SCREEN]

 Well, for the Ryukyu island group, the U.S. Commander in Chief Richard Nixon announced the end of USMG jurisdiction effective May 15, 1972. However, for Taiwan, no U.S. President has made any similar announcement.

[PAUSE ON SCREEN]

 Yes. In closing today, what is important for us to realize is this:

The solution to Taiwan’s problems must be found in Washington D.C., it will not be found in Taiwan.