

# U.S. Air Leaders Visit Chiang; New Battles

By STANWAY CHENG

TAIPEI, July 8 (Friday).—(INS)—Four American air commanders, slated to hold military talks with Nationalist China's leaders, landed in Tapei Thursday as two more air-sea clashes flared in the renewed warfare off the Red China coast.

The urgent Taipei consultations were prefaced with a warning by Free China's air force chief that Formosa will come within "immediate range" of some 500 Chinese Red jets when two new airfields are completed "within days" on the mainland coast.

## THOSE IN PARTY.

The American officials who arrived in the Nationalist Formosan capital were headed by Gen. Laurence S. Kuter, Far East Air Forces commander, with headquarters in Tokyo, and Maj. Gen. Sory Smith, Pacific Air Command chief, who flew in from Honolulu. They were accompanied by Kuter's operations director, Maj. Gen. Hunter Harris, and Brig. Gen. William Lee, commander of the Philippine-based Thirteenth United States Air Force.

They came for a series of conferences with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and other Nationalist leaders on the threat to Formosa and its outpost isles, posed by a steadily growing Chinese Communist air buildup.

## NEW FIGHTING.

The Nationalist air force announced, meanwhile, that its patrol planes sank five Red naval vessels and damaged ten others, including four gunboats, in two encounters off the Fukien Province coast of the China mainland Thursday.

The first engagement broke out near Tungshan Island, halfway between Nationalist-held Quemoy and the Red mainland port of Swatow, when the Nationalist planes ran its heavy anti-aircraft fire from Communist war vessels.

The communique said the Nationalist planes straffed the Red flotilla sailing in a northerly direction, with the result that four of the Communist gunboats, of undetermined tonnage, were damaged.

## SINK FIVE JUNKS.

A few hours later, the announcement said, another flight of Nationalist warplanes came

upon and joined battle with a Red naval flotilla including armed junks near Manau Island, north of Swatow. The Nationalist pilots claimed they sank five of the military junks and crippled six others.

The near-completion of two new airfields on the Red continental coast opposite Free China's principal island bastion of Formosa was reported by Nationalist Air Force Chief Gen. Wang Shu-ming.

Wang told International News Service that the two big bases are located at the coastal cities of Foochow and Swatow and will be ready to go into operation in a matter of days.