

Admiral  
Cooke

DP

I think you've got your admirals mixed. The clue came when you mentioned the black-marketeering in automobiles. That was not Admiral Jocko Clark but Admiral C. M. Cooke. And in the China lobby file are the attached memos re Cooke and Chiang.

Your reference to Jocko Clark was merely that he hitched a ride on a Navy Plane once to go hunting.

(Adm. Clark is mentioned in Who's Who; is listed as at a San Diego Air Base)

*Chen*

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August 21, 1951

Mr. Drew Pearson  
2820 Dumbarton Avenue  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Drew:

Re: Admiral Cooke

I discussed Admiral Cooke with General Worton. Worton states that Cooke controls a corporation, of which, he believes, the name is the China Economic Company. He does not know whether the company is incorporated in the United States or in the Far East. The corporation is purportedly engaged in commercial business but Worton does not know what line of business. Admiral Cooke and about 8 or 10 other retired officers run the corporation. Officers have been recruited by offering \$10,000. to \$15,000. a year salary. A retired marine, General Johnson, formerly an aviator, now lives in Coronado, California. General Johnson worked some 6 months for Cooke in China and then quit. Worton does not know whether he quit with any ill feeling, but, if you want, I can attempt to contact Johnson in Coronado. Two or three retired captains also work for Johnson, an Army colonel in the reserve, a retired Army colonel who, Worton believes, is named Peterson, and a Captain Latham who is now someplace in Los Angeles, although Worton does not know where.

Worton says that although he cannot prove it, the corporation is a very peculiar operation and, he feels, nothing but a front for giving advice to Chiang.

Worton states that he never told you Cooke received \$25,000. a year from the Hearst International Service or any other newspaper, that he does not know of any connection whatsoever of Cooke and any newspaper. Worton also says that you probably already have the information that Cooke's wife has been talking on the radio for the China lobby. Worton finally says that Cooke was the Commander of the fleet in China at one time, but I presume you already have this information.

Best ever,

*George*

GLA:JFG  
AirMail

*Chen*

September 10, 1951

Memo to DP from JA:

C.I.C.'s show-window Admiral, Charles M. Cook, Jr., used his military connections and influence in order to get General MacArthur's headquarters to release 22,000 rounds of 3" Navy shells to Chiang Kai-shek's government in Formosa in July, 1950 - a few weeks after the Korean war started. Needless to say, we needed all the shells we could get to fight the Korean war at that time, and our Navy was assigned to protect Formosa which therefore didn't need the shells as badly as we did.

In addition to the 22,000 rounds of 3" shells, 40,000 rounds of 20 mm. and 40 mm. shells were also loaded without authorization and at no cost. The story given out was that these shells would be dumped into the sea as scrap. However, this story was not true. The price paid for the 3" shells was \$3.00 each, which is a bargain basement surplus price, as compared with the original list price of \$36.00. The payment was made directly to the United States Navy Department by Commander Huang Shi-Lin, the resident representative of the Chinese Navy in Washington. In spite of this direct payment, a 12% commission was paid to C.I.C.

The explanation given by Miran Aprahamian, president of C.I.C., was that he "pried open the door."

Col. Hsiang got this information from C.I.C. and the Chinese Embassy. I personally asked S. G. Fassoulis about it and he ad-

mitted that C.I.C. had arranged for the purchase of these Navy shells. However, he pooh-poohed the value of the shells, claiming that most of them were defective and weren't much of a bargain. I am sure the Chinese would not have bought them if they weren't a bargain.



Further information from Jack--

Admiral Charles M. Cooke is still head of the mission working for Commerce International. The mission includes 11 former American officers ranging from first Lieutenant to General and Admiral, but mostly colonels and lieutenant-colonels.

The only other high-ranking officer is General R. L. Peterson. Jack doesn't know whether he is Army or Marine Corps.

Two high-ranking officers ~~had~~ have left the organization - Marine General O. T. Pfeifer and Admiral H. L. Grosskopf.

The #2 man in influence is Cooke's son-in-law, Major C. F. Field.

All of these are retired officers.