

## Re-examining the Role of 228 Incident Settlement Committee

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### ABSTRACT

With reference to the unpublished confidential files of the 228 Incident kept by the Secrets Bureau, Taiwan Branch and other related historical resources, this article examines the 228 Incident Settlement Committees established all over Taiwan. In addition to the 228 Incident Settlement Committee in Taipei, which functioned like the headquarters at the provincial level, there were 26 other settlement committees, with 14 in counties and cities and 12 in villages and towns. During the outbreak of the 228 Incident, these 27 committees undertook the responsibilities of collecting public opinions, maintaining social order and carrying out political reforms. The members and organizational structure of these committees, their roles and their interactions are all issues worthy of further study.

It was found that although the 228 Incident Settlement Committee in Taipei did not have any actual power as the control center, it did play the leading and coordinating role. The lists of committee members came mainly from “confidential reports” of intelligence agents but the authenticity of the lists was questionable. Among all the groups in the committee, the two noteworthy ones were the Provision Group which controlled food supply while the Security Group which possessed arms and weapons. The committees were often infiltrated by intelligence agents, revealing that seeds for doom had been sown since their establishment.

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