

Analysis and Research on “228 Incident Historical Materials of Secrets Bureau, Taiwan Branch”

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ABSTRACT

The article introduces nature and characteristics of historical materials on the 228 Incident solicited by the Institute of Taiwan History, Academia Sinica in April, 2008. These historical materials were part of the legacies of an intelligence officer of the Secrets Bureau, Taiwan Branch and comprised investigation reports from the head of the Bureau as well as operatives of its different divisions. These reports constituted one of the channel through which the Central Government in Nanking obtained information and intelligence regarding the 228 Incident. They were also the only prototype of intelligence reports currently known. However, the reports were provided by agents using aliases and the decision-making process of the headquarters of the Secrets Bureau in Nanking remained largely enigmatic. These problems made the authenticity of the intelligence hard to verify and posed limitations to the research. Hence, special caution must be taken and detailed investigation had to be conducted when using these historical materials.

Analysis of the 223 reports of more than 1,600 pages began in April 2009. An academic seminar was held in November 2013 and 7 related research articles were published in two special issues of Taiwan Historical Research. The first volume of 228 Incident Historical Materials of Secrets Bureau, Taiwan Branch will be published in June 2015.

Keywords: “Secrets Bureau, Taiwan Branch”, 228 Incident