

# TAIWAN

## THE NEW CHINA



Though our stay in Taiwan was a short one, filled primarily with shipboard maintenance, we still had ample time to take in this beautiful country. Taiwan is an island country some 255 miles long and averaging between 70 and 90 miles in width, located about 90 miles off the Chinese mainland. Settled in the 15th

Century by mainland Chinese and inhabited by many nationalities, it was used as an important Japanese supply base during World War II, and has become one of Asia's most prosperous countries under Chiang Kai-Shek's leadership. Taiwan covers an area of 13,885 square miles and has a population of about 14 million people. There are about 210,000 non-Chinese aborigines, some of whom are rumored to take heads on occasion. Many dialects are spoken, Mandarin being the most common, and a fair amount of English is spoken in the larger cities.



Kaohsiung, where we were, is Taiwan's major port city and is located on the south-western tip of the island, about 200 miles south of the capital city, Taipei. Two local places of interest are the shrine in Shoushan Park overlooking the harbor, and Chang Tsing Lake, a man-made reservoir with its beautiful park along the shore.

