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August 23, 1979

Chen Bor-wen (Chen Yung-chung) and Yang Yu-rong released.

Members of the Democratic Opposition Chen Bor-wen (陳博文) and Yang Yu-rong (楊裕榮) were released on \$ 500. – bail each at 12 noon, Thursday August 23, 1979.

The release took place after intricate negotiations between members of the *tangwai* (“outside the party”) and the governing authorities on Taiwan. One of the conditions was that Wu Tse-long (吳哲朗) co- editor of **Chao Liu**, would turn himself in – then to be released again together with Mr. Chen and Mr. Yang.

Mr. Chen and Mr. Yang will still face charges in court. Informed sources in Taiwan say that they will be charged with "disturbance of the public peace". The U.S. State Department indicated that it has learned that the court proceedings will be held in civil court. As of August 23, no indictment charges have been drawn up against the two men.

The release of Chen Bor-wen and Yang Yu-rong was the result of an international campaign on their behalf. Some highlights:

1. The hunger strike in New York City by Chen Wan-jen, co-founder of Chao Liu. Ms. Chen started her hunger strike on August 9, and continued her fasting until August 20th. Her courageous act attracted international attention. UPI (news item enclosed) and the New York Post (August 13) were among the many newspapers covering her strike.
2. Three members of the Democratic Opposition in Taiwan (including Yao Chia-wen and Hsu Hsin-liang) met with Kuan Chung, deputy chief of the KMT policy coordination committee, and told him that unless Chen Bor-wen and Yang Yu-rong were released, the Opposition would announce the formation of a formal opposition party on September 1st.

The *tangwai* are now planning a party for September 1st to celebrate the first anniversary of Chao Liu. A decision on the announcement of the formation opposition party will be made at a later time.

3. Pressure by the U.S. State Department, Senators and Representatives also contributed to the release of the two members of the Democratic Opposition. Many U.S. officials and particularly Senators David Durenberger (Minn), Claiborne Pell (RI), Charles Percy (Ill), Henry Jackson (Wash), and Representatives Jim Leach (Iowa), Don Bonker (Wash), and Joel Pritchard (Wash) – expressed their concern over these arrests to the American Institute

in Taiwan (AIT) office in Arlington, VA. Officials of the AIT met with Hsia Kung-chuan (aka Konsin Shah), head of the Washington office of Taiwan's coordinating council for North American Affairs (CCNAA), and expressed the deep concern of the United States Government over the arrests.

Please express your appreciation to abovementioned senators and representatives and to other US officials who helped in securing the release of Chen Bor-wen and Yang yu-rong.

AM-CHEN 8-10

BY TITO DAVILA

NEW YORK (UPI) -- IN COLD DRIZZLING RAIN SATURDAY A 29-YEAR-OLD TAIWANESE JOURNALIST CONTINUED A HUNGER STRIKE IN PROTEST OF PRESS CENSORSHIP IN HER COUNTRY.

WAN-JEN CHEN, WHO HAS NOT EATEN SINCE THURSDAY, SAT ON THE SIDEWALK AND LEANED WEARILY AGAINST THE WALL OF 801 SECOND AVE., AN OFFICE BUILDING THAT HOUSES THE NATIONALIST CHINESE COUNSULATE GENERAL.

CCNAA

"I AM DOING THIS HERE BECAUSE THIS IS A FREE COUNTRY," SHE EXPLAINED THROUGH AN INTERPRETER.

MS. CHEN, WHO ARRIVED AS A TOURIST IN THE UNITED STATES A MONTH AGO, SAID SHE STARTED HER FAST WHEN SHE LEARNED OF THE ARRESTS AND IMPRISONMENT OF TWO OF HER COLLEAGUES AT THE NEWSPAPER CHAO LIU (TIME), AN "UNDERGROUND" PAPER SHE HELP FOUND.

"I CAN FIND NO OTHER WAY BUT A HUNGER STRIKE TO EXPRESS MY FEELINGS AGAINST MY GOVERNMENT'S REPRESSION," SHE SAID. "YOU CANNOT REASON WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN TAIWAN. THERE IS NO LEGAL WAY TO DEAL WITH THESE PRACTICES."

"IN TAIWAN ALL THE MASS MEDIA HAS BEEN PLACED (THE UNDER) HEAVY HAND OF THE GOVERNMENT," SHE SAID. "THERE IS NO FREE PRESS."

MS. CHEN SAID SHE USED TO WORK FOR THE TAIWAN DAILY NEWS, BUT RAN INTO TROUBLE WITH THE GOVERNMENT. "THEY DID NOT LIKE MY KIND OF REPORTING. THEY SAID IT WAS TOO POLITICAL," SHE SAID.

"I COULD NOT REPORT WHAT I WANTED TO, WHEN I DID PRESSURE CAME DOWN FROM THE TOP -- THE GOVERNMENT.

TO "BREAK THE EMBARGO" SHE SAID, SHE AND A FRIEND STARTED THE CHAO LIU.

NO OFFICIALS OF THE TAIWANESE GOVERNMENT IN NEW YORK WERE AVAILABLE SATURDAY TO COMMENT ON MS. CHEN'S CHARGES.

MS. CHEN CLAIMED HER PAPER'S "COURAGEOUS" REPORTING AND ITS FEATURES ON TAIWANESE DISSIDENTS LED TO THE CRACKDOWN BY THE TAIWANESE GOVERNMENT, WHICH, SHE SAID, CLOSED THE PAPER LAST WEEK AND ARRESTED A REPORTER, YUNG-CHUNG CHEN, AND YU-RONG YANG THE PRINTER OF THE NEWSPAPER.

per name for Chen Bor-wen.

MS. CHEN SAID SHE WOULD RETURN TO TAIWAN IN OCTOBER WHEN HER TOURIST VISA EXPIRES.

"THE GOVERNMENT, MOST LIKELY, WILL ARREST ME AND THEN THROW ME IN JAIL WHEN I RETURN," SHE SAID.

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