



TAIWAN COMMUNIQUE

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Freedom of Religion?

For several years the Taiwan authorities have attempted to inhibit the activities of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. In 1975 the government confiscated 2,200 Bibles printed in the Taiwanese language. Since 1977, a number of issues of the weekly **Taiwan Church News** mysteriously “disappeared” in the mail. In the summer of 1979 the authorities introduced a law on “Churches, Synagogues and Temples” in the Legislative Yuan, which would have given the government power to disband a religious organization if it was not in compliance with Kuomintang party policies. The law was quietly shelved after strong expressions of concern were voiced both in Taiwan and abroad.

In April 1980 the General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church, the Reverend Kao Chun-ming, was eliminated from active participation in the Church’s affairs: the authorities arrested him on a “failure to report to the authorities” charge in connection with the case of opposition leader Shih Ming-teh — who can be described as Taiwan’s equivalent of Poland’s Lech Walesa. Shih is now serving a life sentence, while Reverend Kao received a seven years’ prison term.



" ... never in the long history has such a "mail worm" been attached to our publication."

Taiwan Church News
February 1st, 1981

There are signs that the authorities are now further stepping up their campaign against the Church. The three most recent events are briefly discussed below:

An uneasy rider for the Taiwan Church News

The Taiwan Church News (TCN) is the official publication of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. It was the first church newspaper ever published in East Asia, and it was the first newspaper to be published in Taiwan. It appeared without interruptions during the Japanese occupation of Taiwan (1895-1945) and during the two World Wars.

It now appears that efforts are underway to slowly stifle this respectable publication: the January 25, 1981 issue (#1508) went into the mail to the subscribers as usual, but when the subscribers received this issue they found a pamphlet inserted in it, which attacked the TCN. Those who have some experience with Taiwan's postal service know that it is closely monitored by the secret police agencies: this blatant violation of the postal integrity could thus not have been committed without the active participation of these organizations. It is a telling sign that the Taiwan authorities have not made any attempts to apprehend the culprits.

In the February 1-8 issue of the TCN (#1509 and 1510) the editors note:

“We are concerned about this [event] for ourselves and for our country. The postal service is a government-operated organization, which should guarantee the confidentiality and the integrity of the mail service. It now seems to be used for acts which threaten our freedom of religion. We have had “disappearances” [of the TCN] in the mail before, but never in our long history has such a “mail worm” been attached to our publication.”

The editors ask rhetorically:

“Would it be possible the “Communists” are doing this? We hope that the government will quickly take action against the culprits. The postal service should be courageous enough to find out who is responsible for this serious event.”

An attack against the World Council of Churches

The second attack against the Presbyterian Church came from **The Intellectual** (Tahsueh tsa-chih) a monthly which used to be moderately pro-KMT, but which recently came under the control of one Yeh Ch'ien-chao, whose father Yeh Hsiang-chih is a prominent figure in Taiwan's secret police circles. In its February 1981 issue (Vol. 27, no. 2) the publication printed a vitriolic attack against the World Council of Churches

(WCC), of which the Presbyterian Church became a member in April 1980. The article brands the WCC a “new international communist organization.”

The article describes the history of the WCC in some detail and then focuses on its relations with churches from East European countries. It says that since the 1961 New Delhi conference the WCC has been controlled by “communist atheists.” The author of the article also berates the WCC for not condemning the U.S.S.R. invasion of Czechoslovakia at its conference in July 1968. (We suggest that it would have been difficult for the WCC to do that in July, since the invasion did not take place until August).

The article then focuses in on “links” between the WCC and the Taiwan Independence Movement, and concludes that it is all part of an “international conspiracy.”

Taiwan Communiqué comment: *It appears to us that with this article the secret police in Taiwan has laid the groundwork for further steps against the Presbyterian Church; they will proceed if there is no outcry against such attacks on freedom of religion.*

Religious law to be revived

There are now also indications that the authorities intend to introduce a new version of the religious law: on February 16, 1981 Mr. Hsiao Tien-tsan, head of the KMT Central Committee’s youth and educational affairs programs, announced that a new law would be introduced, which would ensure that “... *the development of religion would be properly supervised* ... “

The main purpose of this law is to bring the theological colleges and seminaries under the control of the Ministry of Education. The authorities apparently intend to implement the law this autumn. The law seems to be especially aimed at the educational institutions of the Presbyterian Church. In particular Tainan Theological College has up until the present time been able to ward off serious interference in its internal affairs by the authorities.

However, the new law will give the Ministry authority to appoint security personnel in the school’s administration. It will also give the Ministry the option to “help determine” the curriculum at the institution. The KMT official stated that “... the present laws cannot restrict ‘illegal’ religious activities ... therefore there is a need to enact this new religious law ... “

Taiwan Communiqué comment: It is thus rather clear that enactment of the law would mean a further infringement of freedom of religion in Taiwan. We hope that expressions of concern — especially from the U.S. Government and from religious organizations around the world — will convince the Taiwan authorities not to proceed with the introduction of this law.

* * * * *

Prison report

Important information about the detained opposition leaders was recently published in a Special Supplement of SPEAHRhead (Available from SPEAHR, P.O. Box 1212, New York, NY 10025). The supplement is titled “The Kaohsiung Prisoners Today” and included pictures of several of the major opposition leaders.- It also presents a report on the deplorable conditions under which opposition members are held at Turtle Mountain (Kueishan) prison. We reprint the report here:

Grim News from Turtle Mountain

We have received information concerning the condition of many of the men who were imprisoned in the wake of the Kaohsiung Incident. This information comes to us from sources which we have found reliable in the past, but we cannot vouch for the accuracy of every detail.

Twenty-five of the prisoners have been held in Turtle Mountain (Kueishan) Prison since January 6, 1981. These are all people who were tried in civil court in May 1980 as part of the group of thirty-three. (The “Kaohsiung Eight” were tried in military court).

None of the other two thousand inmates in Turtle Mountain Prison are forced to endure the extraordinary treatment that these 25 are given. Each is held in solitary confinement. Except for Bibles and dictionaries, no books are allow-ed. (Some people are allowed to read Taiwan’s government-controlled newspapers.) They may briefly see, but not retain, photographs of family members.

No exercise or activities (such as handicrafts) are permitted. The lack of activity and human contact adds up to a kind of sensory deprivation that is a form of psychological torture. One prisoner is reported to have said: “Every day is like a year.” Many are reported in danger of losing their sanity.

In addition, some of the prisoners are suffering from the aftereffects of physical torture. They do receive some medical attention, but it is not known how adequate this is. Twenty-four of the 25 are reported to be ill. Among the prisoners who are reported to be in the worst condition are Chiu Chiu-chen and Chang Fu-chung (both in poor mental condition) and Chi Wan-sheng, who is still suffering as the result of having been tortured.

Some of the news is not quite so bad. The physical plant of the prison is good by Taiwan standards, and the guards are relatively kind. The food is described as “not too bad.” Relatives and friends may visit once a week for a total of thirty minutes — the only time a prisoner is permitted to leave his cell. (However, visitors may subsequently be followed and harassed by police.) Prisoners are allowed to write one letter a week, and may receive letters — including from overseas. (The address is 2-23 Hung-teh New Village, Kueishan, Tao-yuan County, Taiwan)

Ms. Lin Wen-chen's property confiscation

A recent report from Taiwan indicates that the authorities have started to carry out the property confiscation of some of the Kaohsiung defendants who were tried in military court. In particular the case of Ms. Lin Wen-chen (~~~~t), principal of Calvin Theological College for Women, is very serious: her family had put all their property in her name since she was most competent in managing the family's affairs. Ms. Lin was arrested in January 1980 along with several other member of the Presbyterian Church. They were accused of harboring opposition leader Shih Ming-teh. Ms. Lin was educated in the United States: she studied music at Julliard School of Music in New York.

The authorities are now confiscating property which actually belongs to other members of the family. The January 4, 1981 issue of the Taiwan Church ~ reports that two valuable pieces of land owned by the family have been confiscated. One piece — approximately one acre, located at Nan Kang — had been auctioned off on September 12, 1980. The other piece — 3.3 acres, located near Nei Hu — was auctioned off on December 29, 1980.

The report indicated that the pieces of property were sold at prices far below the market value, which raises the possibility that they were “purchased” by KMT or secret police officials, who in this way could do a bit of land speculation.

New arrest and sentences

1. Two female opposition members sentenced. In their stepped-up campaign against opposition politicians the Taiwan authorities also sentenced two prominent female opposition members to ten months imprisonment (which will effectively prevent these women from running for office in the local elections, which are coming up at the end of this year).

Huang Yu-chiao Long-time Provincial Assembly member Mrs. Huang Yu-chiao, age 62, was accused of “preventing a policeman from doing his duty.” In the December 1980 election campaign she assisted her son, Weng Jen-yen, who was running for a seat in the Legislative Yuan. During one of her son’s speeches in the final week of the campaign a policeman disturbed the speech by standing right next to the podium and talking loudly into his walkie-talkie. Mrs. Huang asked him to be quiet so the crowd could hear her son’s speech. The policeman kept right on talking, whereupon Mrs. Huang scolded him and pulled him by the sleeve towards the supervisors of the local Election Committee. On January 29, 1981 Mrs. Huang was tried and sentenced to ten months imprisonment.



Mrs. Huang Yu-chiao

The second woman to be sentenced is Mrs. Tsai Hung Chiao-o. She was accused of “... speaking more times than allowed ... “ during the ‘free’ week of the election campaign: during the first week the candidates could organize their own campaign rallies (though, obviously, with quite a number of constraints imposed on them), while during the second week of the two-week campaign only the government could organize political gatherings.

Mrs. Tsai ran, unsuccessfully, for a seat in the Legislative Yuan from Taipei County. She was sentenced to ten months imprisonment on March 3, 1981.

2. Liu Feng-sung arrested. Mr. Liu ran for a seat in the National Assembly from the Changhua-Nantou area. On March 7 he received a notice that he had “violated the election law” by discussing topics which were “not in accordance with national policy.” On March 9 he was indicted, and on March 10 he was arrested. At the time of this writing (March 21th 1981) his family had not been allowed to see him.

Mr. Liu is a long-standing member of the Democratic Opposition: in 1978 he served as campaign manager for Chang Chun-nan, who was then running for a seat in the Legislative Yuan. Mr. Liu is an administrative assistant at the Juvenile division of the Taipei District Court. He and his wife, who is a school teacher, have two children. He was also an accomplished writer: he was the author of an essay titled "The History of the 18 million Taiwanese people" which appeared in issue 113 of *Formosa Monthly*.

3. ***Chang Chun-nan sentenced.*** On March 3, 1981 prominent opposition leader Chang Chun-nan who had been arrested on January 17 (see *Taiwan Communiqué*, no. 112) — was sentenced in the Taichung District Court to three and a half year imprisonment for alleged "illegal activities" during the supplementary elections which were held last December.



Mr. Liu Feng-sung

The written judgment said that, among other things, Chang had "repeatedly violated the Election and Recall Law." He allegedly used his election-campaign loudspeakers to "broadcast anti-government sentiments" (China Post, March 4, 1981). He was also accused of saying that the KMT made "... greater achievements in their espionage activities than in local reconstruction projects."

4. ***A businessman "surrenders."*** On February 25, 1981 the Taiwan Garrison Command called reporters of the government-controlled local media in for a press-conference. The TGC spokesman, General Hsu Mei-lin then proceeded with presenting a businessman who had "turned himself in" after the TGC had "discovered that he was a secret member of the Taiwan Independence League" (China Post, February 26, 1981). The businessman, named Lin Chien-min, had apparently been held by the TGC since January 1981.

General Hsu also presented the "evidence" of Mr. Lin's intention to "commit a terrorist act": three flashbulbs for a camera. The General said that Lin had also had "several boxes of explosive powder," but that "this had been thrown away." Mr. Lin was sentenced to three years in a reform education program.

5. *Malaysian students sentenced.* On February 12, 1981 a Taipei military tribunal sentenced two Malaysian students of Chinese origin to three years reform education for their participation in the “Shen-chou (Divine Continent) Literary Club.” The two, Wen Jui-an age 26, and Ms. Fang O-chen, age 27, were accused of using the club to “spread communist literature, music, movies, and political pamphlets.” Mr. Wen’s writings appeared quite frequently in local newspapers in Taiwan.

State Department Human Rights Report

In February 1981 the US Department of State issued its “Country Report on Human Rights Practices.” The report contains a 12-page section on Taiwan, from which we present some excerpts here:

Taiwan remains under authoritarian one-party control operating under martial law provisions which, authorities state, are necessary owing to the continued confrontation with the People’s Republic of China. In 1980 the human rights situation in Taiwan showed a mixed trend. Taiwan continued its impressive record of the past thirty years in attending to the people’s economic rights. The trend of advancement in respect to inter-nationally recognized political rights by the Taiwan authorities was marred by the handling of the confrontation with elements of the political opposition. A December 1979 rally which turned into a riot in Kaohsiung, referred to as the Kaohsiung incident, led to the arrest and conviction for alleged sedition of several important opposition leaders who received prison sentences of from 12 to 14 years, with one drawing a life sentence.

Thirty-three other rally organizers were charged with lesser crimes. Of those, 29 were eventually convicted; in the appeals process, 22 sentences were reduced. There were allegations of physical abuse during the investigation of the incident and some defendants claimed that their confessions had been forced. Subsequently, the authorities placed increased restrictions on freedom of the press and speech.

“Supplementary Elections” for the National Assembly and the Legislative Yuan, which had been postponed following the termination of diplomatic relations by the US on January 1, 1979, were rescheduled for December 6, 1980. Only a small percentage of the total seats in those representative bodies are filled through

current elections. Of the 146 seats open for election in 1980, 120 were filled by candidates of the ruling Kuomintang (KMT) Party, while the balance went to independent (or “non-party”) candidates including three who are relatives of the convicted sedition defendants in the Kaohsiung incident case.

In the section on “Respect for the Integrity of the Person” the State Department report examines the charges that the Kaohsiung incident defendants had been severely mistreated during interrogation:

Despite the provisions of law and the authorities’ specific denials, in 1980 there was testimony of severe treatment used to obtain confessions.

The three sets of Kaohsiung incident trials and subsequent appeals brought to the surface claims of severe mistreatment by the two groups of eight and ten defendants and one group of 33 defendants tried respectively in military and civilian courts. The defendants’ testimony of mistreatment centered on the investigative phase of the trial when they claimed they were forced to make confessions.

During the trials, *the overwhelming majority* of the accused testified they were subjected to one or more forms of mistreatment during interrogation at security services detention centers or police stations, including denial of sleep, being forced to stand for long periods of time, solitary confinement (especially for the more important defendants), being forced to eat “salted rice” which caused severe bloating and constipation. A smaller number of defendants gave testimony that they were beaten by their interrogators.

..... no evidence was produced before the courts however, that a complete and impartial investigation of the testimony alleging mistreatment had been conducted [by the authorities] as the defense lawyers said customarily was required.

Under the heading “Denial of Fair Public Trial” the report states:

Effective July 1, 1980, Taiwan reorganized its judiciary, with the District and High Courts shifted from the Executive Yuan’s control to that of the Judicial Yuan. The change was aimed at formally separating the courts from the prosecution function, both of which fell under the Ministry of Justice in the old system. This appears to be an improvement, but there is scepticism that the judiciary will be permitted to follow a truly independent course.

The section also states:

Under martial law, civilians who commit certain crimes may be tried in military court. Among these crimes is sedition. Opposition to basic policy (such as expressing views contrary to the authorities' claim to represent all China, advocating accommodation with the People's Republic of China, and supporting an independent legal status for Taiwan) is considered seditious and thus punishable under martial law.

Neither civil nor martial law provides the defendant with protection from self-incrimination. He can be interrogated at length. The defendant may be detained during the investigation phase and has the right to counsel only after the procurator has filed an indictment following the investigation.

With regard to the Kaohsiung trials the report remarks:

The trials were open to the foreign and local press as well as to international observers — a move that was almost without precedent in the case of the courts-martial. Criticism of the first two trials included the failure by the courts to subpoena certain witnesses requested by the defense, and the courts' acceptance of the defendants' allegedly coerced confessions as the major piece of incriminating evidence. Another criticism made of the trial of the eight concerned the inability of the defense lawyers to attend most of the pre-trial hearings. During this phase of the hearings, in which the defendants confirmed their confessions (which they later repudiated during the trial), they were represented by a public defender who knew little of the specifics of the case.

In a section on "Government Policies Relating to the Fulfillment of Such Vital Needs as Food, Shelter, Health Care and Education" the report discusses the progress made on Taiwan with regard to the use of consumer products, employment, and economic development in general. This section was the only part of the report which was extensively quoted in Taiwan's government-controlled press. We will not duplicate those efforts here.

The report then continues with a discussion of freedom of speech, press, religion and assembly:

Article 11 of the constitution guarantees the freedoms of speech and the press. The authorities effectively limit these rights, however, through the enforcement of martial law provisions. Individuals are not free to question publically basic political policies of the authorities.

The Taiwan authorities use seizure and suspension to deal with publications that oppose “basic policy” and which are regarded as excessively critical of the leadership. The main targets of censorship in 1980 were articles relating to the Kaohsiung incident and to Taiwan’s relations with the People’s Republic of China.

After permitting extensive reporting in the newspapers of the Kaohsiung eight trial, the authorities instituted a clamp-down on further debate. They gave approval for oppositionist editors of *The Eighties* magazine (which was banned along with *Formosa* in December 1979) to publish two successor periodicals — *The Asian* (February 1980) and *The Current* (August 1980). Both magazines were suspended, the latter after only one issue. In the case of another oppositionist periodical, the *Bell Drum*, the authorities in August confiscated the first issue as it was being bound by the printer because the magazine’s special section on the Kaohsiung incident would have “confused public opinion.” This action was an apparent violation of the publications law which prohibits pre-censor-ship. These bannings left Taiwan with no real oppositionist publication of any kind.

Oppositionist publications were not the only ones suspended, however. In August the authorities paired the suspension of **The Current** with the suspension of **The Gust** — an extreme, chauvinist publication which had engaged in vitriolic personal attacks on oppositionists and even on certain KMT members whom it believed too liberal. When **Newsweek** touched the sensitive subjects of the Kaohsiung incident and Taiwan/PRC relations, the authorities banned without explanation the April 23 and September 29 issues in which the offending articles appeared. Some issues of the *International Herald Tribune* have been censored with black ink or simply not delivered. The *South China Morning Post* of Hong Kong has been banned because it uses the Pinyin romanization system (used by the PRC) in spelling Taiwan names.

With regard to “Freedom of Assembly”:

Article 14 of the constitution provides for freedom of assembly. While assembly for nonpolitical purposes generally has not been a problem, assembly for political purposes, except during election periods, has often been curtailed. Occasionally it has also been restricted during elections. Since the Kaohsiung Incident, no opposition group has attempted to hold a rally.

On the topic of “Freedom to Participate in the Political Process” the report has this to say:

Reflecting the claim of the authorities on Taiwan to be the government of all of China, there is a group of central political bodies over and above those which pertain solely to the island of Taiwan. The focus of power on Taiwan is the presidency and the Central Executive Branch, which are not subject to direct election. While representation of native “Taiwanese” (descendants of Chinese who migrated from the mainland a century or more ago and now constitute about 85 percent of the population) in local and central legislative bodies has been increasing, Taiwanese are under-represented in the powerful Executive Branch, in which persons from the mainland provinces hold the most powerful positions.

The most important elective bodies at the central level are the National Assembly, which elects the president and vice-president, and the Legislative Yuan, which is the central legislature. There have been no general elections of these two bodies since 1948; the authorities taking the position that such elections cannot be held until they reestablish control over the mainland. Beginning in 1969, “supplementary elections” for these central bodies have been held to choose additional officials from Taiwan and adjacent islands. Through these supplementary elections, the most recent of which were held December 6, 1980, the authorities have increased the membership in the two bodies with the effect, in the legislative Yuan, for example, of raising the proportion of total seats open for periodic election from 10 percent to 17 percent.

With regard to the political system the report also states:

Despite the existence of two small, nominal opposition parties, Taiwan is effectively a one-party system. Candidates who oppose the Nationalist Party (Kuomintang, or KMT) run as independents or “non-party” candidates. Even though the large majority of candidates elected are from the KMT, independent candidates have increasingly been successful in the recent past. There are restrictions placed on the civil and political rights of KMT opponents, e.g. limitations on free speech, assembly and political organization. The press on Taiwan gives great prominence to KMT candidates but tends to give little or no publicity to the views and positions of the independents. The independents in 1980 faced disadvantages in that there were in effect no publications, daily or periodical, which would ensure that their views reached the electorate.

Another factor in the December 1980 elections is that several prominent oppositionists who probably would have been candidates had been convicted for their

roles in the Kaohsiung incident. Nonetheless, relatives of three of the Kaohsiung eight defendants were elected on “non-party” platforms December 6. One received the largest number of votes for any candidate in any race.

Legal scholar evaluates Kaohsiung trial

Stanford law professor John Kaplan — a respected criminal law expert, and an adviser to Ronald Reagan’s transition team — attended the “Kaohsiung Eight” trial on behalf of two human rights organizations: the International League for Human Rights and the Lawyers Committee for International Human Rights.

Professor Kaplan has now completed a 151-page report, in which he assesses the trial. The report was made available to the **Peninsula Times Tribune** (a San Francisco area newspaper), which devoted an article to it in its December 23, 1980 issue. Some excerpts:

... Professor John Kaplan has concluded the trial was unfair, there was little or no evidence to support the convictions and the prosecutions violated basic human rights. He argued that the defendants were more likely convicted “because they raised the forbidden issue of Taiwanese Independence; because they had come to constitute too aggressive and effective a political opposition; or because of some combination of these reasons.”



Prof. John Kaplan

At best, he said, the case may be viewed as an “interruption in a gradual but continuing process of increasing freedom and democracy” for Taiwan. At worst it may “represent the beginning of a repression which will mean the end of the hopes for democracy on Taiwan for some time to come.”

That is a prospect, he wrote, that raises the specter of “a new measure of instability” over the entire area. It is all the more ominous, in Kaplan’s opinion, because “the great majority of people on Taiwan, including those in the government, recognize that within the next decade or so, something will have to be done to make fundamental changes in the government structure.”

That structure, based on the Nationalists' claim to represent all of China, is deteriorating as age takes its toll on members of the Nationalist legislature and government.

The **Times Tribune** article also presents professor Kaplan's description of the eight opposition leaders on trial:

... he said the eight defendants represented a sizable portion of the opposition leadership on Taiwan, that many of their "expectations and values were shaped by the American experience, and their tactics were strongly influenced by the American civil rights movement."

Professor Kaplan also described the impact of the bad timing of the U.S. normalization of relations with China on the internal political situation in Taiwan:

Had Carter delayed one week in making the announcement, he wrote, it "would have made no difference in the relationship between the United States and mainland China, (but) would have made a considerable difference to the progress of democracy on Taiwan." [This is in reference to the cancellation of the December 1978 elections in Taiwan after the announcement of the normalization. The non-KMT was running very strong and might have won a considerable number of seats if the elections had been held as scheduled. U.S. - China normalization gave the Taiwan authorities a good excuse to cancel the elections — Ed.]

All of the defendants had long been involved in opposition politics, and after the cancellation of the 1978 elections they sought to keep their political issues alive through publication of a magazine entitled "Formosa." It served as an instrument critical of the government and, perhaps, as an only slightly-veiled political organization. Independent political parties are illegal on Taiwan, where authorities still maintain after more than 30 years that they are the legal government of all of China and that their residence on Taiwan is temporary.

The article describes Professor Kaplan's conclusions as follows:

"... that there is no evidence, apart from their confessions (which Kaplan believes were coerced), that the defendants intended the riot to be a part of any effort to overthrow the government at all."

Nevertheless the eight were charged with sedition. And of 100 others who were arrested on less serious charges, 30 eventually were convicted and sentenced by civil courts.

Despite an “unprecedented” degree of openness, Kaplan said, the military trial of the eight most prominent dissidents was unfair and their convictions unwarranted. He is especially appalled by the weight given to the written “confessions” that he said were very likely obtained through “fatigue bombing” and, in at least one case, a beating.

“Fatigue bombing” means isolation, enforced sleeplessness and lengthy questioning by teams of interrogators, a technique devised not to elicit information but to break the will of the person being subjected to it.

Notes

1. Dr. Yu Ch’ing elected to the Control Yuan. At the end of December 1980 the Taiwan Provincial Assembly elected twenty-two new members of the Control Yuan — a supervisory body with relatively little power. A pleasant surprise result was the election of Dr. Yu Ch’ing as the first non-KMT member of that body.

Dr. Yu became well-known in Taiwan last year, when he acted as defense lawyer for two of the “Kaohsiung Eight” — Shih Ming-teh and Chang Chun-hung — and for several defendants in the civil court trial of the “Kaohsiung Thirty-three”. Dr. Yu holds a J.D. degree from Heidelberg University, West Germany.



Dr. You Ching

2. NRC grants nuclear export license. On February 12, 1981 the United States’ Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) decided by a vote of three to one to grant an export license for two nuclear reactors to Taiwan Power Co. Dr. Peter Bradford cast the lone “no” vote. Taiwan will not grant the contract until after an U.S. Export-Import Bank loan has been approved.

3. U.S. to sell police equipment to Taiwan. Negotiations for the sale of police equipment are presently under way between the United States and Taiwan. We suggest that, in view of the recent events on the island, such a sale is highly ill-advised. What Taiwan needs ~ at this time is a further infusion of police equipment: this will only encourage further repressive measures by the police authorities.

If the United States government wishes to enhance political stability on the island, then it should encourage the Taiwan authorities to move towards a democratic, multi-party political system. A strengthening of the repressive police system with still more equipment will only make a future explosive situation all the more likely, and will certainly not endear the United States to the people of Taiwan.

4. Yet another publication banned. In the beginning of March 1981 the Taiwan Garrison Command confiscated and banned **Tsung Heng Monthly**. This publication had just been started by publisher Chen Lin-an, a moderate member of the KMT. Editor of **Tsung Heng** is Huang Tsung-wen, who previously edited and authored a number of opposition publications, most prominently **The Voice of the New Generation**.

5. Voice of Taiwan in English. The Voice of Taiwan is a telephone network, which provides the Taiwanese communities around the world with up-to-date information about developments in Taiwan, and with news of interest to the local communities. There are “stations” in more than thirty major U.S. cities, and in Canada, Europe, Japan, and South America.



The headquarters of the organization are in New York (Voice of Taiwan, P.O. Box 768, Jamaica, NY 11431). In order to make information accessible to the English-speaking public the Voice of Taiwan has now started an English-language broadcast: call (312) 764-3568 for the latest news on Taiwan.

Articles / Publications

SPEAHRhead special issue on Taiwan. The New York-based Society for the Protection of East Asians' Human Rights has devoted its Spring 1981 issue of SPEAHRhead to Taiwan (Subscriptions available from: SPEAHR, P.O.Box 1212, Cathedral Station, New York, NY 10025). The issue contains:

1. the full transcript of the Kaohsiung Incident tapes.
2. a moving article by National Assembly member Chou Ch'ing-yü about her imprisoned husband Yao Chia-wen (one of the “Kaohsiung Eight”).

3. On Presbyterian Lin Hung-hsuan (also one of the “Kaohsiung Eight”).
4. Notes from Green Island.
5. An article on Taiwan’s new election law by Professor Hu Fu of National Taiwan University.

“The Eighties” reappears. After a one-year ban **The Eighties Monthly** magazine — published by Legislative Yuan member K’ang Ning-hsiang — appeared again. The latest issue (# 8) contained: an article on the new election law; a profile of the first non-KMT member of the Control Yuan, Dr. Yu Ch’ing; an analysis of the Iranian revolution; and an article about two opposition members who ran strongly in last December’s supplementary elections, but who — possibly due to election fraud by local KMT officials — lost out when the votes were counted.

F.A.H.R. report on the Kaohsiung incident. The U.S.-based Formosan Association for Human Rights (FAHR) recently published the most comprehensive report yet on the Kaohsiung incident. The 241-page publication presents a detailed factual account of the event and its aftermath — including the three trials. Available at \$10.- per copy from F.A.H.R. P.O. Box 2104, Leucadia, CA 92024 (in Chinese).

Congressional Research Service report on Taiwan. In January 1981 the United States’ Congressional Research Service issued a report titled: -”Taiwan’s Future: Implications overview of the events in Taiwan for the United States.” The report gives an overview of the events in Taiwan since the normalization of relations between the United States and China, and evaluates the prospects for the future.

It concludes, in part, that “ ...for the foreseeable future Taiwan’s internal political stability, and not its military security or economic prosperity, would pose the most important problem for Taiwan’s leaders, and could be an issue likely to complicate Chinese and American policy toward the island.”

Taiwan Relations Act oversight hearings. On June 11, 17 and July 30, 1980 the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs conducted hearings on the implementation of the Taiwan Relations Act. The proceedings of these hearings have now been published. The report contains excellent statements by Congressman Jim Leach (R-IO) and by Mr. William P. Thompson, stated clerk of the United Presbyterian Church of the U.S.A. It further contains testimony regarding the developments in Taiwan by a number of U.S. Government officials.

The pamphlet, titled “Implementation of the Taiwan Relations Act”, is available from the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, H.O.B. Annex 17th floor, Washington, DC 20515.

Memorial service in Taipei

On February 28, 1981 some 500 persons attended a memorial service in Taipei to Commemorate Lin Yi-hsiung’s mother and two young daughters, who were murdered one year ago. The service was held at the funeral home where the bodies are being kept: according to Taiwanese custom the funeral will not take place until the authorities apprehend the persons responsible for the murders.



This picture of the two girls was taken on February 2, 1980 — on their seventh birthday.

FROM:
TAIWAN COMMUNIQUÉ
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3984 ZG ODIJK
The Netherlands

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