

A CRY FOR SOLIDARITY AND INVOLVEMENT
(Massanetta Springs, Virginia, August 25, 1978)

For five days, August 21 through 25, 1978, six hundred Formosans from all parts of the world gathered here, Massanetta Springs, to once again ponder the great problems and promises ahead for every Formosan. Under the co-sponsorship of the Annual Convention of the World Federation of the Formosan Clubs and the U.S. East Coast Formosan Summer Camp, and guided by the general theme of "A Bright Future for Formosa," every participant actively involved himself (herself) in the unique opportunity of a one-week communal retreat.

Through chats, discussions, speeches, stage performances, sports, physical exercises, singing, dining, and lodging, we have gradually come to realize the utmost importance of solidarity among our people and active concern for the destiny of our homeland if a bright future for Formosa can be achieved.

We believe a Formosan identity is a fundamental requirement toward solidarity. To foster this, we must fully master our own unique culture and continue those traditions which are relevant to modern Formosa. Solidarity will also come through active communication among our people and by taking an active part in the history of this island.

The current state of affairs in Taiwan is both encouraging and frustrating. We are highly encouraged by the clear behavioral change of the majority of the people from "silence" to involvement in the political affairs that confront the nation and its people. Formosans have been criticized as a nation of sheep. With this behavioral change, we are confident that we Formosans, here and at home, can overcome major political shocks and survive as a people and as a nation.

It is frustrating to note that the same political stagnation that has stifled democratic values and majority rule since the Chinese Nationalist occupation in 1945 still exists. Today, the island is under perpetual martial law and ruled by a one-party dictatorship. The native Taiwanese, who constitute more than 85 percent of the total population, are given less than 10 percent national representation. There is censorship. Political opponents are constantly under the threat of arbitrary arrest, torture, and long imprisonment. In short, Taiwan is ruled by a minority government a la Rhodesia and South Africa, so condemned by the Carter Administration and the People's Republic of China.

We have noted with alarm that in order to perpetuate its minority rule, the Chiang Ching-kuo regime is resorting to arresting human rights activists and outspoken politicians. Chen Chu, a dedicated human rights worker, was arrested on June 22. Thanks to coordinated publicity campaigns abroad, she was finally "released" two weeks after her arrest. Currently she is constantly followed by one male and two female secret agents. Su Hung Yueh-chiao is the wife of a famous political prisoner, Su Tung-chi, who was imprisoned from 1962 to 1977. Last year, she was elected to the Taiwan Assembly, which is the highest elective office open to the native Taiwanese. Because of her popularity and outspokenness, the regime is trying to imprison her on a manufactured, petty charge - using falsified documents for commercial activities while she was employed by a travel agency, long before her election to the Taiwan Assembly. These dishonest political tactics will only lead to violent reprisals by the people.

On the other hand, the Peking Government has refused to give up its territorial claim of Taiwan as a condition to normalizing U.S.-China relations. This has created unnecessary tensions and antagonisms between the people of Taiwan and China. It is most intolerable that the regime on Taiwan has continued to defend its rule by perpetuating myths such as Taiwan is a province of China, thereby providing the People's Republic with a pretext to claim Taiwan in the name of "liberation."

Land is for people, not vice-versa. We Formosans therefore assert that Formosa is for Formosans. Unfortunately, Formosans have not been their own master in their own land. Since 1624 Taiwan has been under the colonial rule of western and eastern aliens - first ruled by the Dutch, followed by the Spanish, the Ming refugees, the Manchus, the Japanese, and since 1945, by the Chinese Nationalist (KMT) regime. In 1947 Formosans rose en masse to justly protest the KMT regime's corruption, exploitation, and maladministration. Chiang Kai-shek responded by massacring 20,000 Formosan leaders. Today, Taiwan has clearly and unequivocally constituted a separate political entity, unique by its own, through the long process of historical, geographical, economic, political, and cultural development. In this day of human rights and human dignity, we assert our right of self-determination to establish in our own land a free, independent and democratic Republic of Taiwan, whereby freedom, human rights, majority rule, justice, mutual trust, and patriotism can prevail.

A bright future for Taiwan depends to a great extent on the termination of minority rule and the notorious political myths. We urge all parties concerned, especially the present authorities on Taiwan, to take an enlightened step to support and promote three things: (1) the growth of democratic values and majority rule, (2) the untying of the Taiwan-China knot, which is only connected by the bond of political myths, and (3) the establishment of a free, independent, and democratic Republic of Taiwan through self-determination. We believe this solution of the complex Taiwan issue serves the survival and prosperity of Taiwan. This is also in the interest of the U.S., China, and peace and stability in the Western Pacific.

Attached is a resolution unanimously adopted by the 1978 Taiwanese Convention.

For further information, please contact:

1978 Taiwanese Convention
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