

## Democratization as the Necessity for China's Peaceful Unification

On August 31, 2002, I was invited to attend the 2002 Convention of Chinese for Peaceful Unification – Northern California (CPUNC) at Hyatt Regency Hotel in Burlingame, California. There were three programs.

The meeting in the morning was a member conference. It seems that many San Francisco Bay Area local Chinese leaders gather at this organization. The fifty members at the conference elected 31 “Directors of Board,” the new Chairperson, Ms. Lee [1], and selected their “Spiritual Leader” Ms. Fang-Lee [2] as the Honorable Chairwoman.

My observation is that, rather than a serious political organization, this is a social circle for business (in the wide meaning) related to China. The speeches in the afternoon confirm my impression.

There were four speakers: three Chinese professors and Mr. Li Yizhou, vice director of China's Taiwan Straits Relations Research Center. The three “famous” professors are not experts on Taiwan problems at all, and no question was raised from the audience to them. The San Francisco State University Finance Professor repeated some common knowledge about Chinese economy, with some “solutions” to the Chinese government. This professor is Chinese government agencies' VIP in several public situations. This is another indication that the regime in Beijing only likes to listen the superficial advices (mainly on privatization, open market, and “free trade,” which have ruined almost all developing countries under current international political system). The Beijing University Philosophy Professor is not really good even at his Lao-Zhuang Philosophy major [3]. The UC-Berkley professor's major is American minority study. These scholars are brave [4] enough to speak to the public about policy issues without enough knowledge. People just wonder why CPUNC invited them, and what is CPUNC for.

This is a rare opportunity to exchange with the Chinese officials on the Taiwan problem and to educate them. In fact, in the same day's local Chinese newspaper, World Journal, the rival organization Global Alliance for Democracy and Peace (of Taiwan, R.O.C.) bought a whole-page advertisement requesting democratization in the PRC and recognizing Taiwan as an independent sovereignty. Most CPUNC members think Taiwan's request for democratization is only an excuse to seek its true purpose of independence. I agree. However, the very fact that Taiwan could utilize the democratization excuse and greatly succeeded in obtaining recognition from international world (mainly the U.S., and recently Japan) should be regarded a serious warning to Beijing that China's unification cannot skip the necessity condition of democratization.

I raised this point to Mr. Li, hoping that, since this is not a formal meeting, he could realize the importance of this issue and could talk frankly. He didn't provide a straight answer. Nor could he.

In the evening party with about five hundred guests, I had to raise this very important point again directly to this convention's keynote speaker, Mr. Tang Shubei. Currently the director of China's Taiwan Straits Relations Research Center, he is PRC's Taiwan policymaker with direct access to Jiang Zemin. Unfortunately, the politician Mr. Tang also avoided the point. He praised the CCP as a democratic party from the beginning to this day. I could only feel a little difference compared with thirteen years ago: this Mr. Tang thanked me publicly for “concerning China's democratization”, while another Mr. Tang (now PRC's Foreign Minister) denied my PRC citizenship secretly, for exactly the same expression for China's democracy.

It becomes more and more clear that the current regimes in both sides have neither willing nor ability to resolve the Taiwan problem. The Chinese government now allows or encourages more and more open discussion on how to “liberate” Taiwan in Chinese Internet media. Last month, the PLA organized a rescue exercise in Shanghai's downtown district for the first time in the PRC history. These are clear signals of the government's intention to mobilize Chinese people for the

coming conflict with Taiwan and the U.S. Mr. Li admitted: “We have no space to retreat. Over the ‘One China’ bottom line, as Mr. Deng Xiaoping said: ‘He is Li Hongzhang!’ ” That means the end of the CCP ruling over China. Mr. Tang concluded his speech: “The PLA is not vegetarian!”

I haven’t completely given up the hope that the CCP under another leadership could reform itself, at least in the fields of foreign policy and Taiwan problem. For this purpose, I presented CPRI’s research project book, *The U.S.-Japanese Alliance: Its Origin, Formation, Current situation and Future Interactions with China* to Mr. Tang [5]. I also hope that concerned organizations with interest on Taiwan, such as CPUNC, could consider new directions, such as to acts as a think tank, to educate the members, the PRC and Taiwan regimes, and the public in the world.

Since both the Beijing and Taiwan regimes are strengthening their propaganda to the international world (mostly, the U.S. and Japan), unlike Washington’s “ambiguity strategy” to escalate the crisis, the international world should send unambiguous messages:

To the Taiwan regime: Don’t count on the U.S., Japan, and any other foreign forces to split Taiwan from China;

To the Beijing regime: Unification will not be realized without democratization.

NOTES:

[0]. This is a speech prepared for International Toastmaster’s San Jose branch.

[1]. At the evening party, she declared to resign from her position in the ROC Overseas Chinese Council because the council has become a “Taiwan independence agency.” This is another indicator of the intense struggle between those ROC passport holders.

[2]. She is the owner of Examiner, San Francisco’s second largest daily. A widow of a formal ROC/KMT official, her son married the daughter of Huang Ju, the CCP Shanghai Secretary and a CCP politburo. Jiang Zemin has formally proclaimed that the CCP represents the “advanced productive forces” (foreign or domestic capitalists).

[3]. I could say so because I listened his lecture in Beijing University in 1984 when he first came to China from Taiwan. He received Deng Xiaoping’s meeting because of his political activity.

[4]. Let’s don’t use the word “shameless” toward these scholars.

[5]. I feel a little confident that, if he and the Beijing regime read the book, this Mr. Tang will not use this book as another evidence of my “anti-government” activity.

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