



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Billy Keith, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-5461
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (703) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

September 28, 1971

**Taiwan Baptist Leader Opposes
Red China United Nations Seat**

RICHMOND (BP)--The chairman of the Taiwan Baptist convention expressed opposition to the seating of Communist China in the United Nations, and concern over President Nixon's pending visit to Peking, during a conversation with two administrators of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board here.

Lu Pang-Ti, representing about 10,000 Baptists in Taiwan, made the statements during a visit with Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, and James D. Belote, the board's secretary for East Asia.

The Taiwan Baptist leader, accompanied by Hu Hung-Wen, a non-denominational evangelical, told Cauthen and Belote they were members of a group of 22 Taiwanese Christian leaders in the United States to confer with government and United Nations officials.

The group hopes to present their views in the White House and to the Congress in Washington, D. C. They have already presented a petition containing signatures of persons opposing the seating of Red China in the United Nations to an official of the U.N. General Assembly.

According to a handbook which the Taiwan Christians are distributing, the group is called "The Chinese Christian Church Leaders Goodwill Mission." The statement says they represent 177,000 constituents of more than 50 Protestant bodies in the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Lu said the group's mission is to (1) tell representatives to the U.N. and the people of the United States that Christians have had complete freedom to proclaim the Gospel in Taiwan over the past 25 years, and (2) state its conviction that Communist China's repression of Christian churches and failure to renounce war and revolution as means of spreading Communism make that nation unfit for membership in the U.N.

Lu said that publicity in this country about Nixon's proposed trip to Peking has been mostly favorable on the grounds that it is desirable to open communications between the two world superpowers.

Lu added that the group from Taiwan wants to keep "the other side of the story in the arena of world opinion and the entire issue in perspective."

He observed that Taiwanese Christians are concerned and prayerful for the people of mainland China and are opposed only to the totalitarianism of the Communist Chinese government.

Lu spoke in Mandarin, a Chinese dialect in which Cauthen is conversant and which Belote understands. Both were formerly missionaries in China; Cauthen used Mandarin in his work but Belote spoke Cantonese.

After talking with the SBC Foreign Mission Board leaders here, Lu departed for Washington, D. C., where he visited with Baptist World Alliance officials.

In Washington, Robert Denny, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, said that four Baptists from Taiwan paid a "social visit" in his offices, but the question of seating Red China in the U.N. was not discussed in detail.

Joining Lu for the Baptist World Alliance visit were Samuel S. C. Wu, chairman of the board of directors for the China Steel Trading Corporation, Taipei; Wesley Hsu, and Hu Hung-Wen, both Baptist pastors in Taiwan.

Lu said he planned to visit with Southern Baptist missionaries to Taiwan in Greenville, S. C., including retired missionary to China J. Alexander Herring; and also furloughing missionary Oswald J. Quick from Taiwan, now in Raytown, Missouri.

Before leaving Washington, the Baptists from Taiwan left with Baptist leaders there some copies of an "open letter" to "all Christian churches in the United States," and other printed materials concerning their views on Red China.

"We all look upon the United States of America as a leading nation of the world built upon a foundation of good Christian faith and biblical truth," the open letter said. "It is our petition, therefore, to the members of Christian churches and all citizens of the United States of America, to uphold the immortal orthodoxy of Christian belief and stand abreast with us as whole-hearted defenders of justice against all evil. . . ."

"On behalf of the Chinese Christians," the statement said, "we want to solemnly declare our stand against the Communist regime which has forced its tyrannical control over the people on the China mainland during the past 22 years.

"This godless regime is the oppressor of our countrymen," the Taiwan Christians declared. "It has shown no regard for human dignity. It has killed tens of millions and enslaved hundreds of millions. It has persecuted the Christians, closed down the churches, and wiped out Christianity on the mainland. It has forced upon the people the most terrible tyranny in the whole history of China."

The open letter charged the Red Chinese with using "bloody suppressions, concentration camps, forced labor, brainwashing, mutual supervision, secret agents and starvation" to maintain control over the masses of people. The statement also thanked God "for preserving at least a part of our country--namely Taiwan and other islands--where . . . Christians can enjoy and express their faith."

Expressing their concern that one-fourth of the world's population is isolated from the rest of the world, the Taiwan Christians claimed that "to seat the Communist regime in the United Nations provides no solution at all.

"It will only encourage the oppressors and mercilessly deepen the isolation of the Chinese people," the statement said. "Only when Communist tyranny is utterly destroyed and a democratic China is restored can the Chinese people enjoy peaceful friendship and cooperation with the outside world," they said.