
Interview: Dr. Su-yung Liang



We want to reunify China with peace talks, not war

Dr. Liang was born in Liaoning province in 1920 and received a doctoral degree in law from Mingzhi University in Japan. He was the chairman of the KMT legislation committee, speaker of the House in 1990, and is currently a member of the central committee of the KMT.

In 1931, when he was 11 years old, the Japanese occupied Northeast China, and he received a high school and university colonial education. After graduation, he became a prosecutor in 1941 in Changchun, then the capital of the puppet state of Manchuria. But he was engaged in the anti-Japan movement and was in contact with Chungking, then Chiang Kai-shek's war capital. In 1944, he was arrested and sentenced to 12 years in prison for the so-called "crime of betraying the country." He was tortured so cruelly for almost two years that he made the fight for human rights his top priority when he became a judge again after the war. Leni Rubinstein interviewed Dr. Liang on June 4 in Taipei. The interview is abridged.

EIR: How has the constitution of the Republic of China (R.O.C.) changed from before the government moved to Taiwan, and today?

Dr. Liang: The constitution of China is thought of from two different angles; one is in the vision of China as a whole, the other is in the vision of the area of Taiwan only. The political situation of our nationalist government is in chaos. It has been 80 years since Dr. Sun founded it. At the beginning, we were facing the corrupt government of the Qing dynasty and the invasion of imperial powers with the unequal treaties, then the fighting between warlords, until in 1929 we finally reunified China. The Japanese invaded the Northeast in 1931, followed by full-scale invasion in 1937. We finally defeated the Japanese in 1945. We never had any time of peace to rebuild. We were suffering from wars one after another. Everything was destroyed. After World War II, the Russians supported the Chinese Communist Party, which drove the Nationalist government out of Mainland China, at the same time that they wiped out eastern Europe, too. The 830,000-man Guangdong Army, stationed in Northeast China, was one of the best armies of Japan. After the Russians defeated them, they dismantled the industry and brought it back to Russia, but gave the weapons to the Chinese Communist Army. So the Nationalist army lost Northeast China. We

went to Taiwan in the background of defeat.

Taiwan had a population of 6 million then. The other 2 million came with the government from Mainland China. I was elected as a legislator from Northeast China after World War II. At that time, there was a constitution composed by many parties, including the communists. This constitution was respected by all the Chinese at that time, but it couldn't work during the civil war. My life's duty is to support the best constitution, democracy, and human rights.

EIR: How many people were in this working group to frame the constitution?

Dr. Liang: The constitution was not made by the delegates, but by a national assembly. It was made in Nanking in 1945, when the government was still on the mainland. At that assembly, each county had one delegate. Each minority, each different field of work, overseas Chinese, etc. also had their delegates.

After we got to Taiwan, we imposed martial law, which created some inconvenience for people, but it protected Taiwan from being drowned in blood by the communists. At the time, many countries were lost to the Red Army, but we successfully defended ourselves, which created a hope for democracy. The communists attacked Kinman Islands several times. I'm not an army man, but I made the decision to defend our system. We were very well united, which was hard to do under the flood of the communist revolution. If there had not been the good leadership of Chiang Kai-shek, and the fact that over 2 million people and the army retreated to Taiwan, it would probably have been taken by the communists. Though there was martial law, the ideal of democracy was continued, seen in the operation of the Legislative Yuan [parliament], the economic reform, and the land reform, such as the 37.5% maximum for landlords law. Laws regarding foreign affairs, economics, patents, local elections, etc., were made by the Legislative Yuan until Chiang Ching-kuo, a reformer and the son of Chiang Kai-shek, became President, stopped martial law, and allowed the establishment of other parties. At that time I was a lawyer and also chairman of the Judicial Committee. I tried my best to change the law to protect human rights and stop government investigation of individuals, until I retired three years ago.

I know that we've been separated from the Mainland for

a long time, and that the average national income of over \$10,000 per capita has made the Taiwanese so rich that most don't want to be reunified with Mainland China, but our constitution says that any change in territory must be decided by all the people. A local area has no right to make such a decision. (If that were not so, California and Hawaii might declare themselves independent from the United States.) Now, a party which is not in power, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), wants to secede Taiwan from our nation. It's illegal. It's my thinking that only by ending communism and reunifying China can we have peace and progress in Asia and the world. That was the goal for both the father and son Presidents of the Chiang family and those who came from Mainland China, but unfortunately the present government has no such goal any longer.

The problem is one of China as a whole. It's not a Taiwanese problem only. The Mainland is not democratic, and if Taiwan tries to be independent, it will attack Taiwan by force. It's hard for other countries to intervene. This is the first problem. The second problem is that the area of Taiwan is too small. It had 6 million when we came here, then 8 million . . . it has 20 million now. If after 10 or 20 years we have 40 or 80 million, how will we survive? So it's our duty to help the people in Mainland China to become democratic and free.

EIR: Is the constitution still the same one drafted in 1945? President Lee Tung-hui now wants to amend it?

Dr. Liang: We think the constitution nowadays is very good, from the standpoint of history. Our prosperity today exceeds anything in the past. Our national income this year is \$220 billion, which makes us 20th in the world. The \$10,600 per capita average income is 25th in the world. Our foreign trade amounts to \$160 billion. This runs 14th in the world. We have \$86 billion in foreign currency reserves; if not the first, it must be the second in the world. This shows that the government created a peaceful political situation under the right constitution. If the constitution is not good, how could we have made an economic miracle like this?

President Lee's thinking, however, is getting closer and closer to the DPP, which wants Taiwan to separate from China. Lee made a very shocking statement in an interview with a Japanese journalist recently. He said that the KMT comes from outside Taiwan, and that he was one of its victims who were persecuted, as were the Chinese people during foreign occupations. The standpoint of Lee is that of neither a President of China nor a chairman of the KMT, but something else. He hates us just because we came from "outside." He said, "The KMT is a party from outside, and we need to turn it into our Taiwanese party today." He said this last April. Not only in Taiwan, but throughout the region, there are editorials attacking him, with headlines such as "The New Tendency of Taiwan's Call for Independence" and "The President of R.O.C. Is for Taiwan's Independence."

Concerning his idea of amending the constitution: Some of the 400 legislators elected from the Mainland have died. There are only about 300 still here. According to the constitution there are only 20 delegates allowed to be elected from Taiwan, but there are over 100 in now. If those from the Mainland are still the majority, it is impossible to vote up so-called "independence," because the head of the state council is elected by the Legislative Yuan. That's why Lee is so eager to change the Legislative Yuan as the first step. After most of the old legislators were out of the parliament, they changed the head of the state council. Also, because there are more and more members from Taiwan, the Taiwanese are now the majority in the KMT. I have no objection to this according to the principle of democracy. At the beginning of the R.O.C., there were more Kwangtungnese holding power. When the central government was in Nanking, there were more rich people from Chekiang and Kiangsu holding power. During World War II, there were more Sichuanese in the central government as the war capital was in Chungking. But no matter how many local people there were in the central government, they never forgot their obligation as Chinese. They never forgot to liberate both Taiwan and Northeast China. You can have more local people in power, but you shouldn't localize the policy.

Lee thinks that the Taiwanese people are another race. It's not true. We say, for instance, the Mongolian is another race, but Taiwanese is not. The population is mainly Han people. A few days ago, Lee said that the local people and the Mainlanders are all Taiwanese, but he didn't say that we're also Chinese! President Chiang Ching-kuo said that I'm Taiwanese, but I'm also a Chinese. I'm a Northerner, but I'm a Chinese.

Lee and those who want independence always refer to the massacre on Feb. 28, 1947. When the Mainlanders came here at the very beginning, some KMT leaders abused the local people; the human rights of some were violated by the martial law. It caused many Taiwanese to complain about the government, but it was a mistake made by a few people. Some of the Mainlanders also suffered and were killed during the suppression. We feel much sympathy for this historic tragedy, but it shouldn't be taken as an excuse for revenge, especially for those who direct state policy. It's very dangerous! Forgiveness is a good tradition of China. For instance, after World War II, President Chiang Kai-shek gave up the right to ask for war compensation. I myself also suffered and was tortured in a Japanese prison, but I don't hate the Japanese people—if we treat each other equally. If we take revenge on each other, what would the world be like? I admire South African President Nelson Mandela very much. It's really a big-hearted politician who can forgive over 800 years of killing, if the other side wants to cooperate.

The problem is the same with the Mainland. If we continuously fight, we'll lose. We want to reunify China through peace talks, not by war.