

Reactions vary from signs to smiles

Protesters pester Peking premier

By KAREN ROGERS
Battalion Staff

Hundreds of demonstrators, including Taiwanese, Vietnam veterans and Mao Tse-Tung supporters gathered in Houston last Friday and Saturday to protest the visit of Chinese Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping. Some of the Taiwanese had come from as far away as Oklahoma and Mississippi.

Teng's two-day stay in Houston was the last of a four-city goodwill tour.

About 200 demonstrators gathered at the main entrance of Ellington Air Force Base where Teng's plane landed. Taiwanese flags shipped in the 20-mile-an-hour winds while protesters shouted and sang the Taiwan national anthem.

Many of the protesters said Teng was not the man he seemed to be. "He comes here and shakes hands with President Carter and makes the people think he's a nice guy and he won't do anything bad," said Yukun Chiang, a Taiwanese student at the University of Houston. "But that's not true. Wait two or three years," he added.

Chiang said he believes that China will eventually use force to

bring Taiwan back into the People's Republic of China.

"When he says they won't use force, that's just propaganda to make the American people think they are likeable," he said.

He criticized Carter for his abrupt decision to normalize relations with China.

"He should have consulted with Congress and the people to see their reaction."

Most demonstrators questioned said they were there because "we love our homeland, Taiwan."

Other protesters at Ellington included several businessmen and one Vietnam veteran who carried a sign saying "The only good communist is a dead comm n'9 and 'Impeach Carter."

Teng's motorcade escaped from a side entrance of the airforce base. Some members of the crowd began running the more than one mile distance, but the limousines had already sped away.

There were no protesters at NASA, Teng's first stop, although more than 500 persons waited at the Hyatt-Regency hotel, in downtown Houston, where Teng stayed.

About 600 Houston policemen

standing shoulder-to-shoulder in full riot gear kept the protesters away from the hotel's main entrance. Two fire trucks stood ready to spray the crowd if they became unruly.

Chia-pang Chiu, also a Taiwanese student at UH, said, "Taiwan has done nothing wrong. We're not asking for American sympathy, just their support. Don't believe anything the Chinese say. They will eventually use force on Taiwan."

He urged the "silent majority to write to Congress and tell them to sell more weapons to Taiwan." Although Taiwan "has enough power for the time being," he said, "if it cannot get support from the U.S., it cannot continue building a strong army."

Houston Police Chief Harry Caldwell shook hands with many of the demonstrators, thanking them for being peaceful.

Andy Lai, rally coordinator, led the group in a cheer for Caldwell and shouted, "OK, Chief, we want you to hear we give you 100 percent support."

During the demonstration, Teng's motorcade had pulled into a side entrance to avoid the protesters.

Following the three-hour demonstration, the protesters marched more than a mile back to the Albert Thomas Convention Center where they had begun the rally.

Eighteen Mao supporters, who protested Teng's leanings toward the West were arrested as they marched toward the hotel during rush-hour traffic.

Teng's first brush with a protester came when Louis Bean, a member of the La Porte Ku Klux Klan, lunged at the vice premier as he was leaving for the Simonton rodeo. He was quickly subdued by police and charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Protesters did not follow Teng to Simonton, a town 37 miles west of Houston.

More than 1,000 policemen greeted protesters Saturday morning. Although the crowd was smaller, the noise was not.

This time, there was no way Teng could avoid seeing the crowd of about 200 who chanted "Long live free China."

Most waved small plastic Taiwanese flags or large banners written in Chinese, but the message was the same: "Teng, go home," as one man shouted.



Gov. Bill Clements (center) presents Chinese Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping with a gift at Ellington Air Force Base as Houston Mayor Jim McConn looks on.

Battalion photo by Scott Pendleton

China wants U.S. assist in oil industry

HOUSTON — The People's Republic of China is interested in developing its oil reserves and Energy Secretary James Schlesinger says that the country already is looking to the United States for help.

Schlesinger said he and Chinese Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping discussed energy matters on Teng's flight from Atlanta to Houston, where he continued his tour. The energy official would give no details of the conversation, but offered some generalities.

"The Chinese are very eager to have our help in developing their petroleum industry, on shore as well as off shore," Schlesinger said.

Schlesinger also said the Chinese wanted U.S. help in developing the coal industry but their main thrust was on petroleum.

Schlesinger would not say to what degree, if any, China would assist in U.S. Middle East policy. He said part of their discussion involved Soviet actions and the Middle East, especially the struggle for control of the Persian Gulf, from which half the free world's oil supply comes.

"We talked over the global scene."

Taiwan Aags fear 'democracy'

By LYLE LOVETT
Battalion Staff
Choosing between communism and democracy is easy from the American point of view. But some Taiwanese students at Texas A&M University find the choice more difficult.

There are two different governments in China. The communist People's Republic controls the 900 million people of mainland China, and the democratic Republic of China controls the 17 million inhabitants on the island of Taiwan. Both claim to be the official government for all of China.

Since the United States normalized relations with the People's Republic, the threat of communist takeover is felt greater than ever in the Republic of China.

But some Taiwanese students at Texas A&M say their government is as oppressive as the Communist government of the mainland — that to choose between their government and the Communist government leaves no choice at all.

There are two peoples in Taiwan, native Taiwanese and those who immigrated from the mainland after

its takeover in 1949 by the Communists. The government in Taiwan, because it claims to represent all of China, is controlled almost exclusively by the immigrant Chinese who comprise only 11.6 percent of Taiwan's population.

Some of Texas A&M's Taiwanese students spoke about their government but asked that their names not be printed. They said other students here from Taiwan would report back to the government. Some said their families in Taiwan have been threatened because of things they (students) have said in College Station.

"If you say in public that the government is lousy, you can be arrested immediately," one Taiwanese student said. "It claims to be a free country but it's not really. Compared to this country there is no freedom. So what's the difference between that and Communism?"

That student came to the United States two years ago and is now a permanent resident. "If I had to go back to my country," the student added, "I wouldn't dare say all that."

The Republic of China has representatives for all of China in its legislature. Taiwan is considered one province in the republic and receives a only a few seats. Representatives elected from mainland provinces 30 years ago have not had to face re-election, but Taiwanese representatives are elected every few years. In this way, the 11.6 percent Chinese population of Taiwan has been able to control the island, students said.

"They say China is theirs. Well if it's theirs, why don't they go get it? If they can't, they should forget it," one said.

Other students expressed similar opinions. They said they thought it impossible for their government to ever unite all of China and said they would prefer an independent Taiwan with genuine majority rule to the present system.

One student speaking of Chinese domination of Taiwan pointed out that the island has been controlled in the past by the Dutch, Manchurians and Japanese.

"Taiwan people are suffering from many leaders," he said. "They are accustomed to being oppressed."



Taiwanese protesters face Houston police at the Hyatt-Regency Hotel Saturday. The demonstration remained peaceful, though the crowd shouted anti-communist remarks in English and Chinese.

Battalion photo by Scott Pendleton

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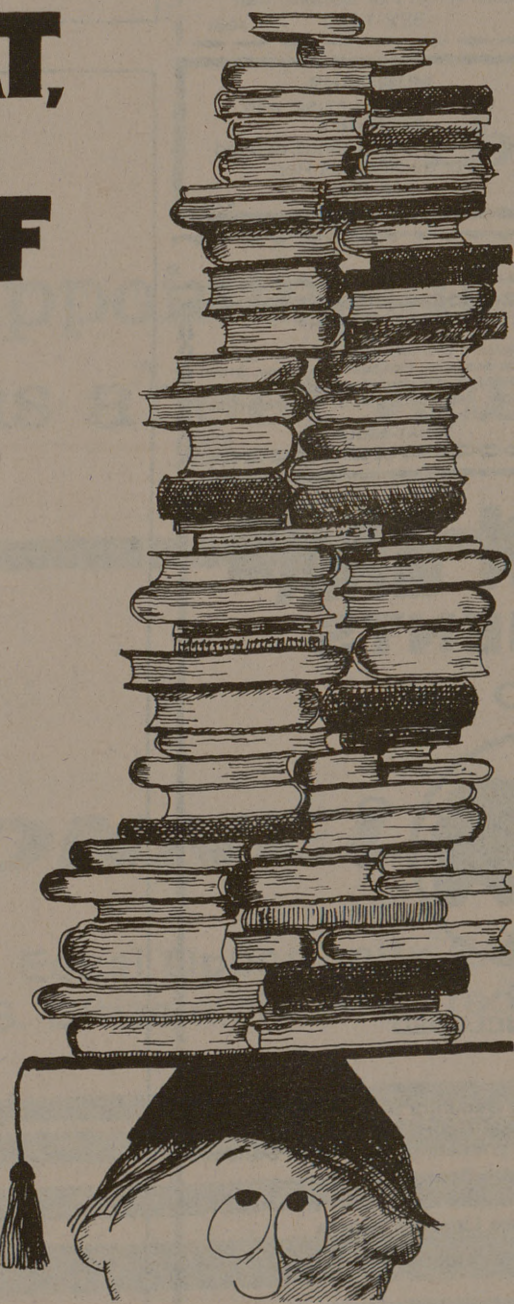
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