

---

## Interview: Fung Hu-Husiang and Lin Hsi-tung

---

# Taiwan independence moves heighten peril of attack by mainland China

*This past Jan. 28, Leni Rubinstein interviewed two patriotic intellectuals from the Republic of China (Taiwan), Dr. Fung and Mr. Lin, for EIR during the New York leg of their U.S. tour. Traveling to gather support for the New Alliance for Democratic Reform among overseas Chinese communities, the two also visited San Francisco, Los Angeles, Houston, and Boston.*

*Prof. Fung Hu-Husiang has published 23 books and won many important academic awards, including the Sun Yat-sen Award which is the highest honor in the R.O.C. Currently, he is the publisher of the widely circulated journal China Forum, and spokesman for the Alliance for Democratic Reform. He has had a distinguished academic career, having received his Ph.D. from Boston College and having been dean of the College of Liberal Arts at National Central University in Taiwan. Among his many positions in government, he was the executive secretary to the late President Chiang Ching-Kuo of the R.O.C.*

*Mr. Lin Hsi-tung, a native Taiwanese, is a prominent attorney. He was president of the Bar Association of Taipei, served as a special visiting scholar and adviser for the Finance and Defense ministries, and was elected in 1993 as a representative of the 14th National Assembly of the KMT, the ruling party.*

*Yet Taiwan's President Lee Teng-hui has accused both Professor Fung and Mr. Lin of "criticizing him" and ordered both of them to be expelled from the KMT. The charges are based on the fact that the two asked the KMT to "promote democracy in the party, open the financial books to the membership of the party, improve the mechanisms for advancement of personnel in the party (based on merit), organize a reform meeting in the party, minimize narrow-minded provincialism, and eliminate the corruptions resulting from the 'money-politics' that has been endemic to the Lee regime."*

*The answers were translated from the Chinese for EIR.*

**EIR:** Throughout Latin America and elsewhere we have seen an effort to undermine the military forces in order to destroy the sovereignty of the nation state. How is the situation for the military forces of the Republic of China?

**Dr. Fung:** I think there are at least three very good traditions

in the military in the R.O.C. All military forces have been educated to a main goal and holy mission and that is to fight against the tendency for an independent Taiwan. That has been one of the major missions. However, now, since President Lee openly and repeatedly has called for insurrection, this has caused a very confused feeling and misdirection. The unity and sense of one, single direction has been destroyed. Secondly, in the tradition of the military power the ethical system has been followed as the basic principle for the soldiers. Since President Lee wanted to use his own personnel, he often chose his own people, without any regard for the ethical principle. For instance in the party, Lee said openly that those generals cannot be elected as the representatives of the party. Lower officers, however, can be elected. This is totally against military ethics. The reason for him to do this is to avoid the influence created by [former] Premier Hau Pei-tsun, but he will and he has destroyed the military ethics.

Maybe the most important thing is the corruption. That has never been so bad as today. You have seen it in the news. It is a disaster. Why? This is the result of the corruption from above. That is, President Lee, he himself, corrupts. Let me give you three obvious examples. He bought a very luxurious house in a suburb near Taipei. In order to avoid the rules, he put this house under his wife's title. That luxurious house cost \$4 million, which is far beyond his economic means. So people believe that this is a very luxurious present from a group of rich people in Taiwan. In addition to that, the wives of many high-ranking officers did business in the stock market, which is also against the law. Since the President is regarded as a very high-ranking commander-in-chief he should be a good example of a very clean and ethical personality, but right now he is a very bad example concerning corruption, so this has been very harmful. So far, we know that at least one rear admiral in the Navy has been involved in the scandal. This is not only very dangerous, but stupid.

If President Lee wants to encourage the Taiwan independence movement, it will eventually cause a war in the Taiwan Strait: Chinese people fighting Chinese people. This will also be very harmful to the P.R.C. [Mainland China]. Secondly, since he has destroyed a good ethical tradition in the military force, this will be harmful for the military ability in the

Republic of China.

Also, many people in Taiwan have become quite skeptical about the image of the military force. Speaking overall, I think this will be a very dangerous warning in that area. To put it another way, this will cause more possibility of creating war in that area. We do not want war, we do want peace. Especially, we do not want civil war again, Chinese people fighting Chinese people using “smart” weapons. That might be another result of imperialism in the area of China.

**EIR:** Some people these days are discussing the possibility of an imminent attack on Taiwan. You spoke [at Columbia University] along similar lines. Would you please elaborate on this question?

**Mr. Lin:** There are three articles in the Constitution of the R.O.C. concerning national defense: First, servicemen must act beyond individual, regional, and partisan interests, devoted only to the nation and love of its people; secondly, political parties can never use military forces as a means in their political disputes; third, no active duty military official can hold, at the same time, any civilian posts. Our Constitution only defined the above articles.

By that definition, the military ethical education is that the military should prevent any tendency toward Taiwan’s independence. When Lee Teng-hui took over, he basically ceased those educational activities. So, within the military and among the military servicemen, they do not know what their goal is, who they are supposed to defend or to protect. They are confused, they do not know what they are fighting for, what they are being trained for.

I have been giving lectures to the generals. If you gather all the stars with which they were decorated, it would add up to 250 stars [laughs], including the commander-in-chief on the Kinmen Islands. [Mr. Lin refers to addressing all the high-ranking military—ed.] And I found out that there is a strong tendency against Taiwan independence, almost anyone who ranks above the level of a colonel. They are all anti-independence officials, I think we should make this clear to Lee Teng-hui. Also, I would like to give you the following example: There are 50 high-ranking military officers, who are recently retired. They have stated that they are monitoring what Lee Teng-hui are going to do in the constitutional amendment of April. If they do not like what Lee does, they are going to quit the KMT to make the point, and maybe they will come back and join the political fight. I am giving this example of real facts to illustrate that if Lee Teng-hui openly calls for the independence of Taiwan, he will start a big political crisis.

Of course, President Lee has the power to promote his own people, on that I am not able to intervene; however, I will illustrate to you what kind of people have been promoted. All the opponents to Gen. Hau Pei-tsun have been promoted. This has created a big destabilization in the military leadership.

Concerning the arms sales and bribery scandal involving Col. Yin Chinfeng, to be honest, I don’t have the facts to prove that he was encouraged by President Lee. This seems an individual case to me.

Another problem I would like to point to is the possibility that the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), which has as its goal the independence of Taiwan, might join the National Defense Committee in the future. They have talked with people and with officers about cutting the budget to weaken the military power. Those generals feel as if they were weakened; they cannot do anything about it. So, generally speaking, what you see in the military is that the generals are demoralized. Therefore, if a war erupts between the Mainland and Taiwan, what we have is a military that is more and more incompetent.

One thing I want to emphasize is that in a war between the Mainland and Taiwan, I do not believe there are any generals in Taiwan who would defend Lee Teng-hui with their own lives.

In Taiwan, we have been fighting against Lee Teng-hui; fighting against the DPP; fighting against some foreign forces, maybe even from America and the American Institute in Taiwan [laughter]. We will sue them, if former ambassador James Lilley interferes in Taiwan’s internal affairs, or to weaken its national sovereignty, we will sue him. . . .

**EIR:** But they could use other means, like to destroy Taiwan’s economy through GATT.

**Mr. Lin:** That may be a different opinion. . . .

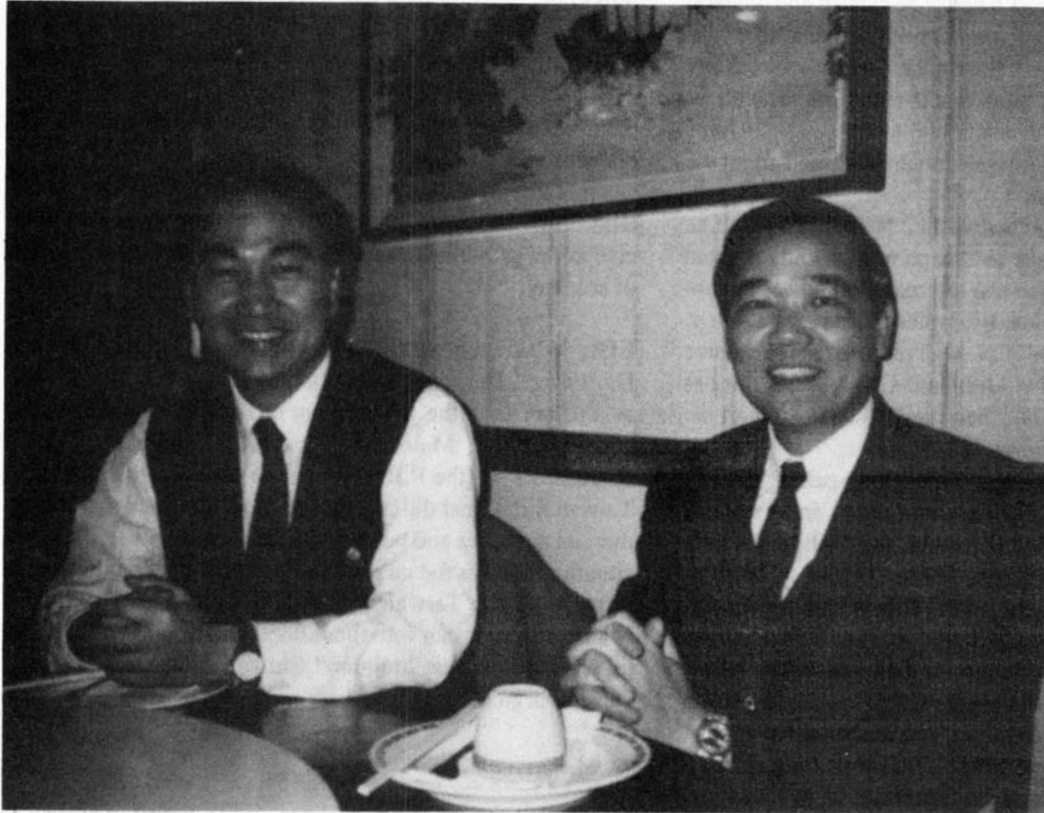
But I announce to the whole world; I announce to all the overseas Chinese what we are going to do . . . justice . . . we will keep fighting, forever, even bring in a revolution.

**EIR:** Please give your evaluation of a possible danger of an attack on Taiwan from Mainland China.

**Mr. Lin:** I agree with what Dr. Fung said on this question. If Taiwan goes for independence, then there will be war. And when such a war starts, the military will not be ready to fight on the side of Lee Teng-hui.

**Dr. Fung:** I would like to make more comments about this topic. First of all, I think that leaders in Mainland China will attack Taiwan’s movement toward independence, not in the name of communism, but in the name of patriotism. In that way their action will be supported and accepted by all people in Mainland China. That means increased possibility for a military action. You see, even those democratic young people who have escaped from Mainland China who dislike the Communist system, on this issue, agree with military action—with an attack to stop a move toward an independent Taiwan.

Secondly, I would like to say that even for internal reasons within Mainland China, they have no other choice, but to attack Taiwan by force, if the movement for Taiwan’s independence becomes stronger. Because, if they can toler-



*Fung Hu-Husiang (left) and Lin Hsi-tung during a visit to the United States. Says Mr. Lin: "If Taiwan goes for independence, then there will be war. And when such a war starts, the military will not be ready to fight on the side of Lee Teng-hui."*

ate the movement for Taiwan's independence, then this will be a sign for the independent movement in Xinjiang province (which is 56 times larger than Taiwan) to move toward independence. Manchuria, Mongolia, Tibet and many other minorities in the western and southern part of Mainland China then will move in the same direction. The whole of China will be broken up. Not any single leader can take that chance, otherwise he himself will be overthrown. So that also increases the probability for the use of military action from Mainland China. However, we Chinese have a saying: "Don't play with fire." President Lee is a person who is now playing with fire, which is very dangerous, very risky. Few people believe that leaders in Mainland China will take military action. It is our responsibility to awaken them, before it is too late.

**Mr. Lin:** I agree . . . very, very serious. We are seeing some signals which indicate the prominent wars. The American government should know this. There are two things we observed on this matter. One, the prime minister of Mainland China in a speech to the Military Council about Taiwan's Independence Movement stated that this would cause a river of blood because they [the Military Council] would not just sit and tolerate Taiwan becoming independent. Secondly, they issued a White Paper on the Taiwan issue which is a very strongly worded attack on the independence movement

in Taiwan on the world stage. The point is that Mainland China has reached the tolerance level and the situation is very critical.

**EIR:** Mainland China seems to be using the issue of taking back Taiwan as the ideological remedy to cure its crisis of confidence inside the country.

**Dr. Fung:** Yes, but not only in that sense. Let us take another angle. Many people believe that since the economic situation has been seriously localized in Mainland China, which means that not a unified, single goal unites all the provinces, except an external, military one. So that is another reason for a military attack.

One other reason: The day before yesterday both of us visited a very famous man, the great master of the Buddhist school here, Fung Hua, who is in Los Angeles. He made two important points to us. First, President Lee will fail in a very short time because he uses power to convince people—not virtue or reason, but power. Therefore he will not succeed. Secondly he said—and he is also a very famous prophet—he made the prediction that in the streets of Taiwan there will be a civil war between two sides. And further that such a war would occur, not only in the local area, but on an international level.

Last year I visited him in San Francisco. He at that time

said the following to me and this time he repeated it again. "You'd better watch out, you'd better be careful and do good for the sake of the peace of the people." He said that it is almost inevitable that we will have such a war on a local and on an international level. I think that is really important.

**EIR:** Our publication has for quite a while warned about the danger of a third world war.

**Dr. Fung:** Yes, that is exactly true. Now President Lee Teng-hui, because he wants to escape military attack from Mainland China, is trying to use international power to support him. There are two clear examples to that effect. First, he wants Taiwan to join the U.N. One of the excuses he gave to the people was: "Even if Mainland China attacks us, as long as we can join the U.N., then the U.N. will support us. They will send military troops." [laughter]

Secondly, he is trying to establish a so-called security system in East Asia. He asked for all nations in East Asia, including Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Korea to support him vis-à-vis Mainland China. The U.S. government also supports this idea. This is also very risky, and also very ambiguous and ironic, because he is trying to use foreign powers to challenge the Chinese people. That means he is trying to go for a confrontation. A confrontation between Chinese and Chinese by using the power of foreign peoples. What he is trying to do is very serious. That is another reason for such an international war.

**EIR:** Are you sure he is Chinese? [laughter]

**Dr. Fung:** That is a good question. Because many people regard him as Japanese.

**Mr. Lin:** The Kuomintang is now very, very worried. It is very weak, in Taiwan's situation, by 1995 the DPP might become stronger.

**Dr. Fung:** I would like to add two points. First, Taiwan's entrance into the U.N., which Premier Lian Chan brought to the world's attention. Joining the U.N. will not reduce any danger from being attacked by Mainland China; it only complicates the issue. Second, there is an Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing. The president of the Academy's Taiwan Research Institute said that due to the failure of the KMT in the elections last year, there is panic inside Mainland China. Also the danger is that in the 1995 elections the DPP could gain more power, could gain enough power to set up a joint government, which would further destabilize the political situation.

**Mr. Lin:** We have a very recent report that leaders in Mainland China signed the so-called Mutual Agreement for Peace with the Russian government. After that agreement was made, Mainland China pulled 1 million soldiers away from the border with Russia and instead spread out this 1 million soldiers along the coast facing Taiwan. Secondly, leaders in Mainland China just made a very clear statement; they said: "We will not just wait and watch (*guanwang*) and see how it

goes with Taiwan's independence movement." This is very important, because they use a very specific term which they often use when they mean war. They have used this term four times. First, just before the Korean War. Second, when fighting the Russians at the border. Third, in fighting Vietnam—exactly the same term. Now they use the same words concerning Taiwan.

In addition to that, just two or three months ago, Mainland China held a major and very important Air Force exercise in the province of Guangdong. They did mass airdrops of soldiers.

**EIR:** What about all the successful hijackings into Taiwan?

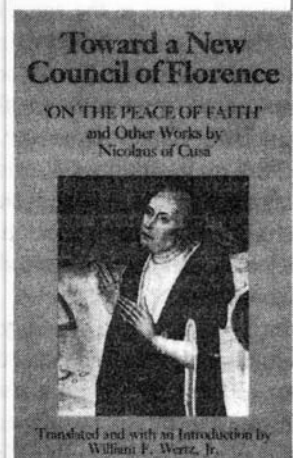
**Dr. Fung:** They happened almost in the same period. Also as a response to the government of R.O.C.'s application to enter the U.N., Mainland China in its reports says that it emphasizes its [the P.R.C.'s] authoritative rights within the Taiwan Strait; that the current situation, in which many commercial airplanes and boats go to Taiwan, is only a temporary situation; that in the case of an emergency the authoritative rights over the Taiwan Strait go to Mainland China; that Mainland China can veto those boats and airplanes if it wants to. That means that Mainland China can surround Taiwan, can embargo it.

## Toward a New Council of Florence

'On the Peace of Faith' and Other Works by Nicolaus of Cusa

The Schiller Institute has just released this new book of translations of seminal writings of the 15th-century Roman Catholic Cardinal Nicolaus of Cusa, who, through his work and writings, contributed more than anyone else to the launching of the European Golden Renaissance. The title of the book, *Toward a New Council of Florence*, expresses our purpose in publishing it: to spark a new Renaissance today.

- 12 works published for the first time in English
- New translations of 3 important works



\$15 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling

**Schiller Institute, Inc.**

P.O. Box 66082 Washington, D.C. 20035-6082  
phone: 202-544-7018