

Appendix 47 -- Political Platform of the Democratic Progressive Party (1986)

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A. The Establishing of a Sovereign and Independent Republic of Taiwan

Territorial Sovereignty and nationality are the preconditions for modern sovereign nations to establish the rule of law and to develop international relations. The fact that Taiwan is sovereign and independent, that it does not belong to the People's Republic of China, and that the sovereignty of Taiwan does not extend to mainland China, reflect historical realities as well as the present situation, and at the same time they form part of the consensus of the international community. According to this reality of sovereignty and independence, Taiwan should draw up a constitution and establish a nation. Only then is it possible to guarantee respect and security for Taiwanese society and for individual citizens, and to offer the people the opportunity to pursue freedom, democracy, prosperity, justice and self-realization. But because the Kuomintang persists in using the fiction of being the "only legal government of the whole of China" and wants to continue the pompous but useless "five power constitutional system of the Republic of China", on which it has depended for a long time to uphold its anti-democratic control and privileges. The Kuomintang's stand against the sovereignty of Taiwan has not only blocked internal constitutional reform, but has also attracted the territorial ambitions of the Chinese Communists. Going against international law and international political reality, the KMT's claim prevents Taiwan from playing a normal role in the international society. Furthermore, such a claim has damaged the national consciousness of the Taiwanese people and obstructed cultural development. Because of these reasons we propose the following:

In accordance with the reality of Taiwan's sovereignty, an independent country should be established and a new constitution drawn up in order to make the legal system conform to the social reality in Taiwan and in order to return to the international community according to the principles of international law.

In accordance with the reality of Taiwan's sovereignty, the scope Taiwan's sovereignty over the land and the people should be redefined, with the double aim of creating a legal basis for dealings between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits in accordance with international law and of safeguarding the rights of people from both sides in their dealings with each other.

In accordance with the principle of preserving multi-cultural development, the educational system shall be reformed on the basis of recognizing Taiwan as a community. This shall be done so that people may gradually cultivate the recognition of their country, society and culture and thereby develop a sense of national self-consciousness. Based on the fundamental rights of the people, the establishment of a sovereign Taiwan Republic and the formation of a new constitution shall be determined by all citizens of Taiwan through a national referendum.

B. Political Order Based on Democracy and Freedom

A democratic and free nation should reject any form of violence and autocracy and establish itself on a legal and political basis that respects the free will of the majority and the principle

of self-determination. It should protect basic human rights, popular sovereignty, division of power, rule by law, judicial independence, equal status for all political parties, and should have a responsible administrative system. Over the past 30 to 40 years, the government has never conducted an overall election of central parliamentarians. The principles of the Constitution have been seriously distorted as a result of the imposition of martial law and "the Temporary provisions Effective During the Period of Communist Rebellion." (The complete re-election of parliament took place at the end of 1992, martial law has been lifted, but the "Temporary Provisions" have entered the Constitution in the form of "additional articles to the Constitution," seriously confusing the political power structure and continuing the distortion of the principles of the Constitution.) For this reason, we suggest that the government:

Maintain human dignity and basic human rights: People are the core of the national and social system. People do not live to serve the nation or the social system, but rather the nation and social system exist to serve the people. We believe that all legal, judicial, administrative, economic and social systems are tools for maintaining human dignity and basic human rights. Human dignity and basic human rights should be protected by the Constitution and should never be restricted by any law. Freedoms of thought, religion, and academic research should never be restricted by any law. Laws that restrict freedoms of speech, the press, assembly and association should never exceed what is more than necessary.

Ensure the principle of sovereignty of the people: The source of all political power is derived from the people. The parliament is entrusted by the people to perform duties on their behalf for a definite period of time. Elections should be conducted on a regular basis to allow people to elect representatives at all levels. Any law passed by the Parliament should comply with the people's wish. The enactment and execution of laws and policies must be logical and justifiable; otherwise citizens have the natural right to resist. The government is responsible to the people. The people have the right to supervise and change their government. The people have the right to determine the form of government and the direction of future political development.

Set up a sound system for division of power and for checks and balances: Government organizations at various levels should be able to supervise one another. Equitable distribution of power and checks and balances should be set up among central and local governments to ensure the implementation of local autonomy.

Set up a sound system for the implementation of party politics: Cooperation among the political parties to form the will of the people is indispensable in constitutional rule. The principles of freedom, equality and democracy for all political parties should be upheld in this political system.

Affirm the value of freedoms of assembly and recognize the importance of popular political and social movements: In a pluralistic society, freedom of assembly and of association are the basic rights of the people. The government should never infringe upon such rights but rather should encourage people to initiate movements that facilitate communication between the people and the government. This kind of communication will reduce problems caused by the inappropriate execution of government power, the monopolization of markets by capitalists, and collaboration among bureaucrats and businessmen.

Protect freedom of the press: Newspapers, magazines, broadcasting stations and television networks should fully assume their responsibilities to the people and provide sufficient information to reflect public opinions.

Newspapers, broadcasting stations and television networks should not be monopolized by any party or faction, and their independence from government control should be protected by law.

Insure that the goal of the rule of law is to pursue and fulfill justice: A nation ruled by law should abide by the Constitution, maintain the dignity of law and fulfill justice. Legislation should be based on just principles and these principles should be formulated in line with the trends of social developments. Judicial organizations should be free of influence of any political party or faction and should justly and impartially enforce the law.

Establish a neutral and responsible administrative system: While the executive power continues to expand, the administrative system should maintain its neutral political stand and should be placed under the supervision of other government agencies to safeguard it from being used by any political party.

Supervise the government's emergency decrees: The government's emergency decrees should not conflict with the Constitution. The duration of a state of emergency and the execution of emergency decrees should be supervised by the Parliament. To prevent emergency orders from infringing upon human rights, the government should recognize the rights of the people to resist emergency decrees.

Policy Suggestions Freedom and Human Rights

Enforce democratic constitutional rule, protect human rights and make sure that all people are equal before the law.

Protect individual freedom and guarantee that no person will be arrested, detained, tried or punished unduly and that no civilians will be subject to court martial.

Protect individual's freedom of expression and forbid the government to set up censorship standards or impose restrictions on the operation of mass media.

Relinquish the "Law Governing Civic Organizations" to insure the people's freedom of assembly.

Protect the people's freedom of private communication and oppose the government's control of mail and eavesdropping of telephone calls.

Publicize and abolish the 'blacklist' - those restricted from entering and leaving this nation. Protect people's right to free entry and departure from this nation.

Protect people's freedom of residence and movement, and remove restrictions on traveling to certain mountain and sea areas.

Protect people's freedom of thought and religious belief, and forbid the prosecution of

dissidents. Oppose religious persecution.

Improve prison administration, respect the prisoners' dignity as individuals and forbid torture and humiliation of prisoners.

Respect human life, prevent innocent people from being jailed and study the feasibility of abolishing capital punishment.

Release all political prisoners and abolish the discrimination and persecution of political prisoners and their family members.

Revise the Criminal Procedures codes, set up a grand jury system and organize a grand jury composed of representatives of political parties, the parliament and impartial community leaders; those charged with sedition shall be tried by grand jury.

Respect mainlanders' wish to return to their region of origin based on the principle of humanity.

Politics

Oppose any form of authoritarianism and autocracy, renounce the use of violent revolution in pursuing political goals. In the hopes of attaining universal peace and prosperity all nations must coexist peacefully and compete fairly.

Oppose any attempt to crack down on newly-developed political groups or parties under the pretext of the Law Governing Civic Organizations or other laws of similar nature. (Even though the ban on political parties has been lifted, the KMT continues to crack down on news political organizations and parties under the "Civic Organizations Law during the Period of Communist Rebellion." Recently the KMT has added articles to the Constitution concerning the examination of new parties, with the intention of cracking down on new parties by calling them unconstitutional.)

A clear line must be drawn between party and government. Political parties must not occupy public property.

Forbid any political party to intervene in military, police and security affairs. Political parties must not build their own forces.

Abolish martial law and all other related laws, regulations, and systems, abolish the national security law, and establish a normal judicial system.

Put an end to the "Temporary Provisions Effective During the Period of Communist Rebellion" and all related administrative orders which are against the constitution, in order to facilitate the implementation of constitutional rule. We oppose the absorption of the "Temporary Provisions" into the Constitution under the form of "additional articles of the Constitution," which distorts the principles of the Constitution and blocks the development of democratic constitutional politics.

Terminate the National Mobilization Law and all wartime measures. (Although the Period of Communist Rebellion has ended, the "National Mobilization Law" still exists. Our view that the "National Mobilization Law" should be abolished has not changed.)

Abolish the Election and Recall Law and enact another election law which provides candidates with free and government-sponsored campaigning, allow votes to be fully reflected in the seats in the parliament, facilitate the establishment of an independent election inspection organization.

c. Balanced Economic and Financial Administration

Improved transportation and communication technology have allowed the establishment of a global economic system. Under such circumstances, all nations will inevitably try to further their economic growth, yet they should not try to maintain their prosperity in an isolated environment. Taiwan is an island-nation and is a viable member of the international economic society. Therefore, it must continue to pursue economic development and to adopt independent policies that forestall the impacts of world economic fluctuations. The government should allow the people of Taiwan to share the fruits of the nation's economic growth by establishing a more progressive tax system. This will help maintain the nation's stable economic growth and prosperity. To accomplish this goal we suggest that the government:

Respect private property: fully protect all forms of legal private investment: This act will spur on productivity and enhance economic growth. The government should enact policies to create a better investment environment and to protect private property.

Encourage stable economic growth: To prevent the nation's island economy from being adversely affected by fluctuations in overseas markets and to enhance the profitability of domestic industries, the government should adopt flexible economic policies that allow business and industry to adjust to changes in the world economy.

Ensure full employment: Labor is an important resource for production. To prevent unemployment from damaging human dignity, depriving the people of basic necessities, and wasting national resources, improved education and vocational training programs must be provided along with more job opportunities.

Assist small and medium enterprises: The government should recognize that the freedom to set up businesses is a basic economic right and recognize the contribution that small-and-medium enterprises have made toward the nation's economic development.

Promote balanced development of every sector of the economy: The government should revise policies which unreasonably favor economic development in urban areas at the expense of rural areas. The governments should devise appropriate industrial policies and redesign community development projects according to geographic characteristics of different areas.

Protect the environment: The government should revise its policies and give priority to preserving the ecological environment and upgrading living standards rather than only focussing on industrial development. The government should make careful assessments of

policies that pertain to the development and utilization of natural resources, production and utilization of chemicals and construction of nuclear power plants.

Allow private investment in state-run enterprises: The government should allow civilians to make investments in state-run enterprises. This will improve their efficiency and prevent them from monopolizing the domestic market. State-run enterprises which are not suitable to be run by the private sector should be placed under the strict supervision of central and local councils.

Develop agricultural and fishery resources: The government should affirm the contribution of farmers and fishermen to the nation's overall economic development pay attention to their unfavorable conditions in competing with the industrial and commercial sectors; remove traveling restrictions to some mountain and sea areas; provide a larger sphere in which to facilitate farming and fishing activities, ensure the safety of fishermen while they are operating at sea, set up necessary facilities and improve training for farmers and fishermen, improve the marketing system of agricultural products to increase income of farmers and fishermen.

Improve financial, taxation and monetary systems: The government should set up a sound financial and taxation system in accordance with the principle of social justice, narrow the gap between high and low income brackets, eliminate corruption, reduce the people's tax burden and improve the monetary system to facilitate private capital formation and to increase the rates of return on saving deposits.

Policy Suggestions

Financial and Economic Affairs

Promote the value of a free economy by gradually opening the domestic market, relinquishing protectionist policies, and taking the initiative in lowering import tariffs.

Develop high technology-intensive industries, improve the domestic industrial structure, and assist domestic industries to increase their competitiveness in the world market.

Protect consumers' rights and interests, enact a fair trade law to prevent profiteering, strengthen economic discipline and realign the market order.

Streamline the management of monetary institutions, prevent the privileged class from obtaining loans by illegal means, loosen restrictions on loans to medium and small enterprises, and help people to obtain housing loans.

Withdraw government-controlled shares in monetary institutions, allow monetary institutions to issue stocks and prevent them from illegally using their capital.

Allow the Legislative and Control Yuans to supervise the management and utilization of the nation's foreign exchange reserves.

Allow foreign exchange rates to float according to market conditions, loosen control over foreign exchange reserve in order to attract more foreign investors to this nation, and reduce

the Central Bank's interference with the functions of the foreign exchange market.

Invite representatives from the government, industries and labor unions to jointly draft and promote industrial policies.

Prevent any attempt to monopolize the market, eliminate collaboration between officials and businessmen, carry out fair trade laws to ensure the normal functions of a free market system.

Encourage manufacturers and producers to set up sales networks to prevent their profits from being siphoned off by middlemen.

Strengthen the supervision of state-run enterprises, avoid appointing officials to head state-run enterprises due to their contributions to the government, and allow private investment in state-run enterprises.

Allow people's assemblies to supervise certain private enterprises whose products are closely related to the people's daily life.

Abolish the tobacco and wine monopoly system.

Encourage foreign investors to make investments in capital and technology-intensive industries, prevent foreign businessmen from purchasing over 50 percent of the shares of any domestic company without introducing new technologies into this nation.

Allow joint venture companies to enjoy the same rights and interests as those given to domestic companies and to fulfill the same obligations as their Chinese counterparts.

Improve the income tax system, increase the amount of individual income tax exemption, and prevent high-income households from evading taxes.

Improve the taxation system based on the principle of equality in order to narrow the income gap between the rich and the poor.

Stop levying value-added taxes on people's daily necessities.

Oppose the establishment of more nuclear power plants, use new energy resources to replace nuclear power plants within ten years.

Step up safety control over existing nuclear power plants, upgrade the quality of personnel working in nuclear power plants and find a better location for storage of nuclear waste.

Strengthen the regulation of food, medicine and commodities to protect the safety of consumers. Maintain the ecological balance, reduce industrial pollution, and strengthen anti-pollution measures. Work out concrete measures to eliminate public hazards and improve people's living conditions.

Pay special attention to foreign investment applications which might bring pollution problems to this nation. Agriculture, Fishery, Forestry, and Animal Husbandry

Promote a cooperative system to take charge of marketing and production of agricultural products to protect farmers from being exploited by middlemen.

Strengthen the function of the agricultural information and forecast systems to maintain a balanced demand and supply of farm products on the market.

Reorganize farmers' associations, increase farmers' income through the establishment of more farmers' cooperatives, pay reasonable fees to farmers' associations when asking them to handle affairs entrusted by the government, and prevent "fake" farmers from controlling farmers' associations for their own interest.

Expand the scope of the farmers' insurance program and implement agricultural production insurance program to help reduce farmers' loss caused by natural disasters.

Provide long-term and low-interest loans to help farmers improve their living standards and environment. Encourage the manufacturing and sales of low-priced and harmless pesticides.

Give priority to using domestically-produced farm products before importing agricultural products from other countries and properly restrict the import of foreign agricultural products.

Expand the scale of farms, upgrade the productivity of each farming unit, and encourage young men from farming villages to seek employment in the deep-sea fishing industry.

Recognize farmland irrigation associations, prevent these associations from being manipulated by local political interests and work out a more reasonable scale of charges according to water consumed.

Improve the employment relations between crew members and owners of fishing boats. Dispatch naval vessels to protect fishermen when they are operating at sea. Prevent waters along the coasts from being polluted and provide assistance to help fish breeders increase their productivity.

Encourage the private sector to invest in deep-sea and off-the-coast fishing industries in cooperation with other Pacific countries.

Open more radio channels to improve fishing boats' communication ability and set up more vocational schools of marine technology to facilitate the development of the fishing industry.

Eliminate the defects of government agencies in charge of forestry administration. Strengthen the plantation and preservation of forests to preserve water and land resources.

Forbid private enterprises to misappropriate the governments incentives to the animal husbandry industry by illegal means, and protect farmers' right engage in animal husbandry.

D. Fair and Open Social Welfare

Taiwan's social structure and functions have been seriously distorted because of the government's inability to cope with many problems in the face of a transition period. The government has been unable to set up a social system required by modern society making it difficult for society to adjust to a new situation. More and more people have lost their sense of ethics, security and their connections with society. In order to solve these problems, we suggest that the government:

Set up a fair and stable social system: The government should allow all people to equally enjoy social resources and the fruits of social development. Abolish all inhumane working conditions to help people develop themselves in a meaningful working environment and harmoniously adjust their relationship with the natural environment and other people without external pressure.

Pursue the goals of a welfare state: The government should do its best to help every member of this society maintain basic living conditions and protect the poor and weak in order to fulfill the ideals of a welfare state.

Establish a social security system: The government should expand the scope of its present social security systems for workers, military servicemen, government employees and teachers to cover all facets of society. The government should devise an unemployment insurance program, allow retired personnel to retain their health insurance policies and to receive pensions on an annual basis. The government should provide assistance to those who are too poor to participate in social insurance programs and take care of the interests of the aborigines, the minorities, the handicapped, widow, widowers and other people in need.

Improved enforcement of the Labor Standards Law: The government should allow all workers to enjoy the benefits of the Labor Standards law, allow them to choose more flexible working hours, and allow maternal benefits to all pregnant women. The government should adjust the workers' salaries according to the commodity price index and protect the workers rights to assembly, to petition and to strike.

Implement a "democratic production system" in state-run enterprises so as to make those people working with the state-run enterprises feel that they are working not only to survive but also to further their potential and to enhance the solidarity of the people. The government should set up a democratic system in those enterprises and allow labor, management and community representatives to jointly take part in the decision-making process.

Alleviate the pressures of population growth: The government should improve its population policy in order to upgrade the standard of living and to reduce birth rates. The government should also formulate emigration policy to assist those wishing to emigrate.

Policy Suggestions Social Affairs

Set up a "Ministry of Social Welfare" to promote social security programs and the well-being of the people of this nation.

Expand the scale of various health insurance programs and provide free medical assistance to the poor.

Expand the group medical networks and accelerate the pace for working out a health insurance program covering all people.

Promote welfare programs for the elderly, raise retirement pensions, set up more old citizens' homes, and assist aged people who are willing to work to find jobs in social service fields.

Revise the Law Governing the Welfare For the Handicapped, adopt more concrete, measures to promote their well-being, increase their employment opportunities, and provide assistance to those who are in need.

Build more public facilities for the handicapped.

Allow retired servicemen to have loans to buy public housing units. (under pressure from the DPP and from society, the KMT has passed relevant legislation and uses 80 billion NT\$ to compensate the retired servicemen for their rights to property in China.

Respect women's social status and rights, remove discrimination against women, and enact laws to indict and punish those who use violence or money to infringe upon the dignity of women.

Set up more public day-care centers to help career women look after and safety of their children.

Continue to promote "the family planning project" in order to attain the goal of "zero population growth" earlier and upgrade the standard of living here.

Work out a sound plan to help people here emigrate to other countries.

Work out a balanced regional development project to prevent people from flooding to large cities and urban areas.

Labor Affairs

Upgrade the standards for protection of laborers, improve their working conditions, and protect their rights to assembly, to association, to petition and to negotiation.

Allow workers to take part in the decision-making process and running of their plants, especially those working within the state-run enterprises.

Strengthen vocational assistance organizations, set up a nationwide employment information system, improve vocational training programs to help people develop to their fullest potential.

Implement an unemployment insurance program to help the jobless and their family members maintain decent living conditions.

Help women to find jobs, protect their right of working, and prevent them from being

discriminated by their employers because of their marital status or physical conditions.

Allow pregnant women and those who have small children to work on a half-time or part-time basis.

Revise the Labor Union Law by removing all restrictions on the number of membership, activities and merger of unions, and forbid any individual or party to apply intimidation or other inappropriate means to control labor unions.

Revise the Minimum Wage Law to ensure that all laborers are able to earn enough money to maintain decent living standards.

Establish measures which ensure that men and women receive equal pay for equal employment and pay equal respect to blue-collar and white-collar workers.

Establish a Ministry of Labor to take charge of nationwide labor affairs.

Set up a labor court to handle cases involving disputes between the labor and the management.

E. Educational and Cultural Reform

Education and culture are necessary for developing modern citizens, but due to political intervention in education over the past years, schools have become places for only memorizing outdated dogma and impractical knowledge. As a result the society is packed with a low-quality, consumer-oriented culture while it fails to develop a high-quality and grassroots culture. The people of this nation are preoccupied by narrow and rigid concepts propagated by the government and lack rationality, spirit, social consciousness and object knowledge of history and of the modern world. Therefore, we suggest that the government:

Set up an open educational system: school education should be able to help people acquire their vocational skills according to their ages and their interest, help them develop their individual personalities, democratic thoughts, and abilities to make judgment by themselves. To attain this goal, the government should increase its budget for education, revise the school curriculum and provide more opportunities for students to further their potential. stop political intervention in campus administration so as to enable universities and colleges to further their functions as an educational, research and service center. The government should link kindergarten education, social education and adult education with school education in order to set up a life-time education system.

Maintain neutrality of faculty and academic freedom: The government should protect the teacher's and students' rights to receive advanced education in order to upgrade the quality of education in this nation. Students should be allowed to publish publications and convene seminars without restrictions. University teachers and students should be given the rights of assembly and autonomy. Whether a university or a research organization should continue to hire its personnel should be determined by an independent screening board without interference by political powers. The government should guarantee the lifetime employment of those outstanding teachers who have served for a certain period of time.

Attached equal importance to modern culture and grassroots culture: Encourage the natural development of native culture so that people will not lose their cultural identity. The government should not try to impose any restrictions on cultural development and should encourage the establishment of a new and advanced culture which combines foreign and native cultures.

Enrich components of native culture: The government should try to upgrade the quality of the domestic culture by reducing the influence of consumer-oriented and entertainment cultural styles and by providing more non-profit cultural activities. At the same time, it should try to maintain the cultural characteristics of peoples of different backgrounds, increase international cultural exchanges, maintain a balanced cultural development in both urged rural areas, and avoid using cultural activities as a tool for attaining political goals.

Policy Suggestions Educational Affairs

Promote academic and creative freedom, respect teachers' rights to lecture freely, employ professors as school administrators and establish a lifetime tenure system for outstanding teachers.

Relinquish unifies textbooks and curriculums for primary and high schools, prohibit teachers from inculcating students with political dogma, promote freedom of thought, and encourage students' individuality and creativity.

Increase the central government's budgets for educational and cultural development and forbid any political party or group from misappropriating budgets for education.

Protect the people's right to establish private schools at various levels and to determine their own educational curriculum.

Remove military instructors from schools, abolish the compulsory military training, promote campus democracy and forbid political or military intervention in school affairs.

Extend the period of compulsory education to 12 years.

Improve the national university entrance examination, increase the number of universities and colleges, increase the number of students enrolled in public universities and colleges, upgrade the quality of teaching and expel college students who perform poorly.

Reduce the number of students per class and purchase more teaching materials to improve the quality of education.

Adopt a more flexible academic system for universities and colleges.

Upgrade the faculty and facilities of graduate schools and cooperate with renowned foreign universities in setting up branches in Taiwan.

Appropriate government funds to encourage the private sector to establish training facilities for the handicapped.

Make public the financial conditions and procedures for the employment, discharge, evaluation of personnel at education facilities, and allow teachers to file petitions for reconsideration of their cases.

Increase teacher salaries, provide better benefits, and improve the teachers' retirement system.

Provide long-term, low-interest loans to college students and increase scholarships for students from low- income families.

Forbid private schools from collecting excessive tuition from students, protect teachers and staff of private schools, and present citations and awards to outstanding private schools.

Give priority to improving education facilities in backward areas to maintain a balanced development of education.

Cultural Affairs

Promote grassroots culture, protect cultural property and traditional skills, hold more art exhibitions and concerts to balance cultural development in urban and rural areas.

Promote the principle of BI-lingual education, giving priority to primary schools and kindergartens in order to foster the healthy development of the languages and cultures of every ethnic group in Taiwan.

Affirm the value and status of Taiwan's history and culture, compile educational materials on local history and culture, Taiwanize education to inspire the people to love their country and locality, and include the history of Taiwan in the curriculums of schools at various levels.

Appropriate more funds for construction and maintenance of community playgrounds and sports facilities to encourage people to exercise and take part in international athletic events.

Promote scientific and cultural exchanges and cooperation with other countries to upgrade the quality of culture and academic research in this nation.

F. Peaceful and Independent Defense and Foreign Policies

Taiwan is becoming more and more isolated from the international community. The number of countries which maintain official ties with Taiwan has gradually decreased since the People's Republic of China (PRC) was admitted to the United Nations. This situation has made it difficult for Taiwan people to take part in international activities and to travel abroad for sightseeing or business purposes. It has also caused the outflow of capital and seriously affected the development of Taiwan's external relations. Therefore, we suggest that the government:

Resume and develop relations with other countries: The government should cooperate with those countries who support peace, international justice, democracy and respect people's sovereignty and right to survival, in fighting for peace and progress of all human beings based on the principles of equality, reciprocity, independence and self- determination. In order to

promote an independent foreign policy , the nation must adopt more flexible and active measures to handle problems related to Taiwan's status in the international community.

Resolve international disputes by peaceful means: The government should make more efforts to seek peace on the condition of not affecting the nation's right to defend itself. The government should oppose any nation which tries to use military force to occupy the territories of other countries or to conquer any political entity whose international status is still in dispute. The government should support worldwide disarmament talks, control on military equipment and destruction of all nuclear and chemical weapons on earth.

Allow all residents of Taiwan to determine the future of Taiwan: According to the principles enshrined in the United Nations "International Regulations Governing Economic Social and Cultural Rights," all peoples may freely determines their political status and pursue economic, social and cultural development. Taiwan's future should be determined by all residents of Taiwan according to the principles of freedom, self- determination, universality, justice and equality. No government or joint government has the right to determine Taiwan's political affiliation.

Cease confrontation between the governments on the two sides of the Taiwan Strait: The government should find a satisfactory solution to this problem based on the principles of humanity, equality and peace on the interests of Taiwan people. while there is still a sharp contrast in the political, social and economic system on the two sides of the Taiwan straits, the authorities on the two sides should give priority to improving the living standard of their people and should not create tension or confrontation. Solutions to the problem between the two sides should be determined by all residents of Taiwan according to their free will. We oppose any talks on the solution of this issue which are against the principle of "self-determination."

Reduce the size of the army and upgrade its effectiveness by improving defense technology: The government should shorten the length of compulsory military service, avoid waste of national resources, allocate more funds for the purchase of air and navy defense equipment, diversify the sources of military procurement and strengthen self- production of weapons.

Place the armed forces under the jurisdiction of civilian government: The government should set up a system to make sure that people and civilian officials have full control of the armed forces. The armed forces must maintain political neutrality and refrain from being involved in political disputes. Political parties should withdraw from the armed forces and all military departments should be subject to supervision by the parliament and be responsible to the parliament.

Policy Suggestions Foreign Affairs

We oppose any attempt by the PRC to use military force to threaten Taiwan. The two sides of the Taiwan Straits should be allowed to compete with each other peacefully on an equal status and adopt a rational attitude in preserving peace in the Taiwan Straits.

Oppose the use of force in reconciling international disputes or any government or regime

which tries to resolve such disputes regardless of the people's wishes.

Adopt more flexible and active measures to facilitate reentry into the United Nations. Respect the U.N. charter and international treaties, and return to the international community based on the principles of equality and reciprocity.

Oppose racial discrimination, ascertain the principle of the universality of human rights, and support those whose human rights are being infringed upon.

Oppose international terrorist and their murder of innocent people and call for the establishment of a world order based on justice.

Promote regional economic cooperation in the Far East and the Pacific Basin, and strengthen cultural, technical and economic exchanges with other countries.

National Defense

Reduce the size of the army without affecting the nation's defense capability and maintain that military forces are primarily for self-defense.

Oppose production, procurement, storage and application of biochemical or nuclear weapons.

Abolish the political warfare system in the military and forbid any political party or individual to control the armed forces.

Revise the "Conscription Law" to shorten the time of compulsory military service and improve the examination system for the recruitment of reserve officers from college graduates.

Place military forces and military administration under the jurisdiction of the Defense Ministry and insure that the civilian government and parliament have full control of the armed forces.

What are the Aims of the DPP?

1. Full-Fledged Democracy

The people of Taiwan are entitled to the fundamental freedoms outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The DPP calls for the decentralization of the government, and depoliticization of the military and police. The DPP believes that keeping the electronic media and the judiciary independent of party control is essential to a healthy democracy.

2. An Independent and Sovereign Taiwan

Taiwan has enjoyed de-facto separation and independence from China for 100 years. Its political and economic achievements amply demonstrate that Taiwan fulfills all the criteria for a sovereign state under international law.

Taiwan deserves the right to participate fully in the international community. The DPP advocates holding a referendum to determine whether Taiwan is a part of China. Central to the DPP policy is that the sovereignty of the island belongs to the Taiwanese people alone. As such, the DPP opposes any internationally-recognized "One China Policy" where Taiwan is a part of China.

3. New Constitution

The present constitution was drafted in 1947 to fit the conditions prevailing in China at the time. The existing political structure is entirely archaic. The 21 million people on the island of Taiwan deserve a new constitution which can fulfill their democratic aspirations and address today's political realities.

4. Free Economy

Recognizing the merits of a free economy which respects private property rights, the DPP strives for stable growth, full employment, and the privatization of state and party owned enterprises. To insure that Taiwan's economic progress is not achieved at the expense of its people or the environment, the DPP also calls for the protection of labor rights and the environment.

5. Social Welfare

The DPP upholds the inherent dignity of each individual. Recognizing that the economic miracle remains an illusion for some, the DPP is particularly concerned with the situation of women, ethnic minorities, and the underprivileged in today's society. The DPP advocates the establishment of a comprehensive social welfare system to guarantee adequate living standards for all.

Taiwan Belongs in the United Nations Taiwan is an independent, sovereign state

Since the end of World War II, Taiwan has enjoyed a prospering economy. Currently, Taiwan is the world's 14th most important trading nation, and the second largest holder of foreign reserves. Taiwan's GNP of US\$244 billion ranks 18th in the world. Its population of 21 million exceeds the populations of 75% of the United Nations' members. In recent years, Taiwan has also been a part of the global trend toward democracy. Taiwan has undergone dramatic political transformation, accelerated since the establishment of an opposition party in 1986 and the abolition of martial law in 1987. In 1992, the Taiwanese people exercised their most basic democratic right -- they elected their own parliament.

The Taiwanese people demand to be heard

While the world applauds Taiwan's successful transition to democracy, it condones the silencing of the Taiwanese people in the international arena. While the world profits from Taiwan's pursuit of economic freedoms, it denies the Taiwanese people the political freedom to define their international identity. Regional partnerships based on trade welcome Taiwan into their ranks but when discussions turn to issues of peace and security, suddenly Taiwan becomes invisible. There can be no peace in Asia as long as there is instability across the Taiwan Strait. And instability across the Taiwan Strait will persist as long as the world continues to deny Taiwan representation in the most fundamental forum for conflict resolution -- the United Nations.

Taiwan has existed separately from China for almost 100 years

The United Nations withholds membership from Taiwan because of the PRC's claims that Taiwan is part of China. However, history and international law prove these claims to be unfounded. In 1895, China relinquished Taiwan "in perpetuity." During the past century, two world wars have been fought, governments have been toppled and rebuilt, and borderlines have been erased and redrawn. It would be unthinkable for Europe to reorganize itself according to the borders that prevailed in 1895. Yet China maintains its archaic territorial claims to Taiwan, and the world is indulgent. Why does the world pamper a government

which tortures its own people, practices genocide in Tibet, and suppresses democracy in Hong Kong? How can the world believe that the Taiwanese people could ever accept unification with such a government?

The United Nations is pragmatic

Overriding Cold War mentalities, the United Nations welcomed the membership of East and West Germany in 1972, and of North and South Korea in 1991. Clearly, conferring United Nations membership does not cement the status of a country or preclude future changes. The government of Taiwan exercises effective control over its territory and its people. Taiwan is an active participant in global affairs. As with Germany and Korea, the United Nations should recognize the importance of Taiwan's international role by granting it a voice in the world arena.

The United Nations needs Taiwan

In the coming years, the United Nations will inevitably assume a greater role in international relations. Taiwan has already made vital contributions to the economic prosperity and political stability of the Asia-Pacific region and of the world. With the world's second largest foreign currency reserves, Taiwan clearly can enable the United Nations to undertake urgent problems of conflict resolution, peacekeeping, and disease eradication. Issues such as trade, security, nuclear nonproliferation, human rights, and environmental protection will require close multilateral cooperation, not deference to the whims of Chinese dictators. The world cannot afford to ignore the reality of Taiwan any longer.