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Summary of U.S.State Dept. 1982 report to Senate & House Foreign Relations Committees on Human Rights Practices in Taiwan

Political history since 1949 - the political power and most positions of power in the government remain with the Nationalist Party, the Kuomintang, who were elected on mainland China before 1945. Native Taiwanese - about 85% of population - do not have significant power, and are structurally prevented from gaining it.

What is referred to in the report as the "taiwanese independence movement" is a loose movement to return control of the government to elected Taiwanese. This movement is considered sedition.

Martial Law - Martial law was imposed in 1949 and operated ever since. It is the means by which the Nationalist Party retains control and is the crucial fact for human rights in Taiwan. Martial law means that political crimes and other major crimes can and are tried in military, rather than civilian, courts. Cases in these categories are then reviewable only by the Ministry of Defense.

These are the observations on human rights conditions as listed in the State Dept. report:

Political murders - murders of a mother and twin daughters of an opposition figure and of a U.S. born Taiwanese professor in 1980 and 1981 "are believed to have been politically motivated".

Torture - Just last May, five policemen were tried and convicted for illegal arrest and causing bodily harm to a taxi driver beaten and then drowned while under arrest. "Physical violence...(is) a practice many believe police resort to frequently."

Arrest and warrants - Arrest is without warrant in many cases. Individuals may be held up to seven months and possibly more at prosecutor's request. Recently, attorneys were allowed to be present for interrogation of their clients, but that may only mean sitting behind a soundproof window - watching, but not hearing. There is no protection against self-incrimination.

For many minor crimes police not only arrest, but also prosecute and punish. Police are now trying to get the power to put certain of those detained in military prisons for "educational punishment" for crimes against "social peace" - all without trial.

"Monitoring of telephone calls(is)widely believed to exist", and in a recent case there was evidence of monitoring of international calls.

Political prisoners - There are, by government admission and the count of international organizations, approximately 100 political prisoners in Taiwan. 20 of them have been imprisoned over 30 years.

Sedition, which is defined as any opposition to basic government policy, especially the contention that the present government represents all of mainland China, is punishable in military courts under martial law. Native Taiwanese who say that their island should be self-governing are committing sedition and are commonly and frequently tried as such. Political candidates are known to be routinely monitored for such sentiments.

International security surveillance- Although authorities deny it, it is widely accepted that activities of students in the U.S. and other countries' universities who are Taiwanese are followed by the security service.

Censorship - Police may legally seize, ban and/or suspend publication licenses of publishers of printed material they think "confuses public opinion and affects the morale of the public and armed forces." This practice is very common. Major U.S. magazines such as Newsweek have been banned in recent past. Foreign correspondents' credentials have been revoked for reporting the wrong things.

Public assembly - Public assembly for political purposes is banned, except in recent years 15 day election periods have been created in which rallies are allowed but closely monitored.

Religious freedom - Churches have been warned against involvement in opposition political groups or groups which discuss Taiwanese independence. Authorities have made it clear that they intend to take control of religious educational institutions. In 1980 a confrontation with the Presbyterian church came to a head with the conviction of the church's general secretary and others in the church for their harboring a sedition defendant who sought help.

Travel freedom - Permission to leave the country for a trip or to study may be delayed or withheld for security reasons or because the person has criticized the political establishment. 20,000 people (about 2% of applicants) were denied travel permits in 1980 - over 300 for security reasons alone.

TAIWAN

More than thirty years of dynamic economic development contrasts sharply with the pace of political development in Taiwan, where the ruling authorities have emphasized stability rather than change. Nonetheless, the authorities have created an array of democratic institutions from village to province level, with candidates inside and outside the dominant Nationalist Party. Actual power, however, remains in the hands of the small leadership group elected in mainland China before 1945, which came to Taiwan after World War II and controls the Nationalist Party (Kuomintang), the military, and the executive bureaucracy. A high degree of political control is exercised through the security apparatus, which operates under martial law provisions enacted in 1949 and which the authorities justify by the threat of military action or subversion from mainland China.

The enhancement of human rights is publicly endorsed by the authorities but remains incompletely realized in Taiwan. Although individuals may run for elective office, coordinated opposition activity is greatly restricted. The publication of opposition political views is closely controlled and the activities of outspoken oppositionists are monitored, both at home and, apparently, abroad. Native Taiwanese, descendants of Chinese who migrated from the mainland mostly in the eighteenth century and who now constitute 85/percent of the population, dominate the economy but are under-represented within the ruling elite. Recent evidence suggests that torture and other forms of physical intimidation are still occasionally used by police, but probably are not officially condoned.

Nineteen eighty-two saw the continuation of a slow trend toward improvement in the human rights situation in Taiwan. Publication and public expression of oppositionist sentiment have become gradually freer, although there are still strict limits to what is acceptable. The authorities continue to recruit qualified Taiwanese to fill important economic and political, military, and security posts, a process which will contribute to an increased share of political power by the Taiwanese. With the rise of a prosperous middle class, popular concern about human rights is increasing. Despite Taiwan's diplomatic isolation and concern about the island's future after the passing of the current President, Chiang Ching-kuo, the outlook for continued improvement in human rights appears favorable.

1. Respect for the Integrity of the Person, Including Freedom from:

a. Killing

No killings for political reasons have been substantiated in Taiwan in 1982, or indeed in recent years. However, the murder in February 1980 of the mother and twin daughters of jailed oppositionist Lin Yi-haiung and the suspected murder in July 1981 of a Taiwan-born US resident, Professor Chen Wen-cheng, are widely believed to have been politically motivated.

b. Disappearance

In recent years, there have been no credible reports of persons being abducted or secretly arrested by the security services. There are no known terrorist organizations operating on the island.

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c. Torture

Taiwan law specifically prohibits the use of torture. The Code of Criminal Procedure states that an accused shall be "frankly" examined, but that no violence, threat, inducement, fraud, or other improper means shall be used. This language is repeated in the Military Trial Law.

The death in police custody of a Taipei taxi driver, Wang Ying-hsien, in May 1982 focused public attention on the use of physical violence by police in interrogating criminal suspects, a practice many believe police resort to frequently. Wang was picked up on suspicion of robbing a bank and died while in police custody. The actual robber was captured a few hours later and Wang's daughter challenged the police account of Wang's death. The autopsy report, released on August 20, confirmed that Wang was beaten but ruled that his death was caused by drowning in the Hsintien River. Although his death was officially declared a suicide, five policemen were tried and convicted for illegally arresting Wang and causing him bodily harm.

d. Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Imprisonment is the usual form of punishment for both political and nonpolitical offenders. According to the authorities, nine executions were carried out in 1981, seven of convicted murderers, and two of persons convicted of robbery.

Taiwan's civilian prisons are severely overcrowded. In April 1982 the press reported that civilian prisons, built to accommodate 11,261 prisoners, were then holding 17,162 or 5,901 over capacity. Prisoners are forced to share cramped living quarters and have fewer opportunities for work, exercise, and family visits. Overcrowding was partially responsible for severe rioting which broke out in the juvenile section of Hsinthu Prison in March 1982.

Conditions in the military prisons administered by the security police, where political prisoners are confined, are reportedly less crowded. Prisoners receive the same food as soldiers and have work and recreation opportunities. Although conditions for the Kaohsiung-incident prisoners have reportedly improved since their arrest in 1980, six non-Nationalist Party legislators charged in July 1982 that these prisoners continue to be denied access to regular work programs and recreational activities, are prohibited certain amenities accorded other prisoners, and are subject to special rules which keep them separate from one another. A few of the Kaohsiung-incident prisoners are alleged to still suffer from the effects of pretrial mistreatment.

There is no known discrimination in the treatment of prisoners because of class, race, sex, or religion.

e. Arbitrary Arrest and Imprisonment

Taiwan's law of habeas corpus requires that, following an individual's arrest, the arresting authorities notify in writing the individual and his designated relative or friend within 24 hours of the reason for his arrest or detention. The Code of Criminal Procedure specifies that the authorities may detain an accused for up to two months during investigation prior to the filing of the formal indictment, and for up to three months during trial. During the investigation phase,

however, the prosecuting officer may apply to the court for one extension of two months. The period of detention may also be extended during the time the accused is on trial. In recent cases, including the Kaohsiung incident, the authorities generally have followed the requirements of the above provisions, with exceptions occurring more frequently in the military system.

Major changes in the Code of Criminal Procedure, affecting the rights of criminal suspects, were enacted by the Legislative Yuan in July 1982. Suspects were granted the right to legal counsel during the investigation phase, including the right to have a lawyer present during interrogation by police. This was viewed by legal experts as a positive step in the protection of arrestees' rights. However, despite the opposition of the legal establishment, the press, and many legislators, the authorities also forced passage of changes which allow police to arrest without a warrant anyone they suspect of committing a crime for which the punishment would be five years or more in prison. Police power was further augmented to allow police to call in suspects or witnesses for questioning without a formal summons. The authorities justified the new police powers by insisting that the revisions would only legalize long-standing police practices.

The authorities deny holding political prisoners. They have stated that at the end of 1975 there were 254 persons in prison on sedition charges. Some persons have been released and others arrested since that time, but this is the most recent figure made public by the authorities. In December 1982 the authorities disclosed that 92 prisoners convicted of sedition and related offenses are currently being held in the Green Island military prison, compared with 115 reported to be there by Amnesty International in February 1980. Nearly 20 of these, originally arrested for communist activities, have been imprisoned for more than 30 years and were excluded from a general amnesty in 1975. Many of these prisoners, all in their fifties and sixties, are reported to be in poor health.

Many minor crimes in Taiwan are handled under a statute which empowers the police not only to arrest but also to prosecute and punish offenders. This law sometimes has been used against political activists. A substitute law, long sought by legal reformers, was put forward by the authorities in October 1981 but quickly withdrawn after being publicly criticized by lawyers and legislators. Critics complained that the law was even harsher than the one it was meant to replace, particularly provisions for "educational punishment" in military prisons for those accused by police of disturbing "social peace." In March 1982 the authorities reintroduced the "educational punishment" provisions as a separate "hoodlums" law. Although they withdrew it again in the face of heavy criticism, the authorities have indicated that they still intend to enact a police powers law incorporating "educational punishment."

f. Denial of Fair Public Trial

Taiwan's legal system is based on European and Japanese models which do not incorporate trial by jury. Under a 1980 judicial reorganization, district and high courts were shifted from the control of the Executive Yuan to the Judicial Yuan, for the first time formally separating the courts from the prosecution function. It is generally held in Taiwan legal circles that the change has given the judiciary greater independence of action.

Under martial law, which has been in effect in Taiwan since 1949, civilians who commit certain offenses, including sedition, may be tried in military court. Opposition to basic policy (such as expressing views contrary to the authorities' claim to represent all of China, or supporting an independent legal status for Taiwan) is considered seditious and thus punishable under martial law.

The authorities occasionally transfer "important" civilian cases (involving such crimes as homicide, kidnapping, and armed robbery) to the military courts. The authorities state that the military courts' swifter and generally more severe justice acts as a deterrent to potential criminals. Sentences are reviewed only within the Ministry of National Defense. In May 1982, the case of Li Shih-ko, who confessed to carrying out Taiwan's first armed bank robbery and murdering a policeman, was referred to the military courts for action. Li's trial on May 18 lasted less than two hours and the sentence, death, was carried out eight days later.

Neither civil nor martial law provides the defendant with protection from self-incrimination. Following the July 1982 revision of the criminal procedures code, suspects may for the first time have a lawyer present during interrogation. However, the authorities have indicated that the lawyer's role is to protect his client from mistreatment, rather than to provide legal counsel during questioning. In some cases, windows have been installed in police station interrogation rooms in order that lawyers (or family members) may see the suspect without hearing the questioning.

g. Invasion of the Home

Physical invasion of the home without a warrant is not a common practice in Taiwan, but does occur on occasion. The Code of Criminal Procedure requires that searches be authorized by warrants, signed by a prosecutor or, during a trial, by a judge. However, exceptions to this rule, previously few in number, were substantially increased by the revision of the code in July 1982. When making warrantless arrests, police may also make necessary searches of person or property without prior authority. Other types of violations of the home, such as monitoring telephone calls, are widely believed to exist.

2. Respect for Civil and Political Rights, Including:

a. Freedom of Speech and Press

The Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and the press. These rights are limited, however, by the enforcement of martial law restrictions. Individuals are not free publicly to question the regime's basic political policy of anti-communism and claim to sovereignty over all of China. Persons who speak favorably of communism or the People's Republic of China, or persons (usually native Taiwanese) who question the legitimacy of Taiwan's mainland authorities by suggesting support for Taiwan independence or self-determination, can expect to be charged with sedition and tried in a military court.

Information brought to light during the investigation of the death of Professor Chen Wen-cheng in 1981 suggests that the security authorities closely monitor political expression, both at home and overseas. During questioning by the security

police immediately prior to his death, Chen was reportedly confronted with recordings of an international telephone call between himself in the US and an opposition figure in Taiwan who was later jailed in connection with the Kaohsiung incident, and of a speech he gave in Pittsburgh supporting the Kaohsiung incident defendants. Although the Taiwan authorities later denied the existence of the Pittsburgh recording, the disclosures sparked a resurgence of allegations that Taiwan agents carry out a systematic program of surveillance and intimidation of Taiwanese students on American university campuses who are suspected of advocating Taiwan independence or self-determination. Indeed, Taiwan newspaper articles have noted the role of Taiwan security service units in the United States and Japan in monitoring dissident Taiwanese political activities. Although there have been reports of such surveillance from several US universities, the Taiwan authorities deny that they carry out surveillance on American campuses.

Censorship of publications occurs frequently. It is carried out through provisions of the publications law which empower the security police to seize or ban printed material that "confuses public opinion and affects the morale of the public and the armed forces." In 1982, the authorities allowed a rise in the number of domestic political opinion magazines, the more popular of which support non-Kuomintang politicians and criticize the party. One or more issues of several of these were banned during the year. Nominally the bans are in reaction to articles critical of the policies of the authorities or which discuss sensitive subjects, but they are widely viewed as tactics of intimidation. The limits of acceptable political criticism are not clear-cut. Even periodicals which are cautious in their selection of articles for publication have been banned from time to time. The ban of a single issue of a magazine may be followed by suspension of the publication's license for one year. In 1982, three magazines received this punishment.

Books are also occasionally banned by the security police. Control over the daily newspapers is exercised indirectly, through guidance from the central authorities' information office and the Kuomintang, and restrictions on the number of newspapers. Nevertheless, newspapers have expanded their coverage in areas previously forbidden, such as news from mainland China. Competition among the island's three television stations has also led to an expansion of their coverage of mainland and other sensitive international news, despite the fact that all three are partially or wholly owned by the authorities. Mounting criticism (Kuomintang as well as non-Kuomintang) of security police censorship, as well as of other elements of martial law administration, has compelled the authorities to defend their control apparatus. In June 1982 the Executive Yuan justified regular "selective postal checks" as necessary to intercept parcel bombs and illegal correspondence with mainland China. It was denied, however, that the authorities monitor telephone conversations.

Foreign publications are available, but are also subject to censorship by the security police and sometimes pages carrying articles offensive to the authorities are removed or blacked out before they are distributed. Some foreign publications are available through subscriptions only and are not allowed to be sold on newsstands. Occasionally, the credentials of foreign correspondents are suspended for articles which challenge important official views or positions.

Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association

Freedom of Assembly is guaranteed by the Constitution. While assembly for nonpolitical purposes is generally permitted, assembly for political purposes, except during elec- is often prevented under martial law provisions. During authorized 15-day campaign periods which preceded island-elections on November 14, 1981 and January 16, 1982, all dates, including oppositionists, were allowed to hold rallies. Those rallies, however, were closely monitored by the authorities under the Elections and Recall Law of 1980, which makes candidates liable for prosecution for "seditious" statements.

Outside the authorized campaign periods, some oppositionists' rallies characterized as "private parties." The authorities' response was moderate but firm and such "parties" were frequently broken up. The same tactic, used by Kuomintang candidates, usually drew no response from the authorities. Planned revisions of the election law announced by the authorities will outlaw the use of "private parties" in future elections.

There is no tradition of trade unionism in Taiwan, and labor unions do not exercise significant influence either in the economic or political sphere. While labor unions are permitted organize, walkouts and strikes are prohibited under martial law. Collective bargaining, although provided for by legislation, does not exist.

c. Freedom of Religion

Freedom to practice religion is guaranteed by the Constitution. Most Taiwan inhabitants adhere to Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, animism, or a combination of beliefs. Other religions include Christianity and Islam. Some pseudo-Buddhist sects and Sun Myong Moon's Unification Church have been banned, due to parents' complaints that these groups were a corrupting influence on Taiwan youth. The groups were accused of leading youth to engage in "abnormal behavior" that involved turning their backs on their families, shifting their allegiance from state to church, and actively proselytizing for further converts. Action was taken on the basis of the police offenses law, a catch-all statute which allows the police to punish minor offenders without referral to the courts.

While generally respecting the right to practice religion, the authorities have brought pressure to bear against religious organizations they consider to be involved in unacceptable political activity. In 1977 the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (179,000 members), long suspect for its advocacy of Taiwanese rights, issued a "Declaration on Human Rights" to which the church leadership has since repeatedly reaffirmed its commitment. By calling for Taiwan's transformation into a "new and independent country," the declaration has placed Taiwan's Presbyterian leaders (almost all native Taiwanese) in a clear position of questioning Taiwan's mainlander-controlled political institutions.

Friction between the Presbyterian Church and the authorities came to a head in 1980 when the church's general secretary, Reverend Kao Chun-ng, and several other Presbyterians were convicted in military court of harboring seditious defendant Shih Ming-te. While admitting he had assisted Shih, Rev. Kao denied seditious intent; he declared his religious vocation

precluded his betraying someone who had sought help and permitted him only to advise Shih to give himself up. Although relations between the church and the authorities have relaxed somewhat recently, the authorities continue to monitor church activities closely. The authorities have warned church members to avoid involvement in oppositionist political efforts or Taiwan independence activity.

In 1982 the authorities established a religious council, made up of representatives of the island's major religious bodies, to advise them on church matters. There are fears that the council may be used to justify unpopular official policies. Similar concerns have been expressed about legislation proposed in 1981 to regulate church activities. The proposed legislation is opposed by the island's major religious organizations as a threat to freedom of religion, although the authorities argue that the law is necessary to "define the scope of religion" and to "protect freedom of religion." An additional proposed measure would for the first time place religious educational institutions under the control of the Ministry of Education. The authorities argue that this would improve the quality of instruction and provide accreditation for the diplomas granted by these schools. Critics point out that it would also empower the Ministry of Education to control curricula and to place a military training officer in each school. Although action on these measures has so far been withheld, the authorities have not renounced their intention to enact them.

d. Freedom of Movement within the Country, Foreign Travel, Emigration, and Repatriation

The Constitution provides for the freedom to change residence. There is general freedom of internal travel in Taiwan, except to military and other restricted areas. Emigration and private travel abroad have become freer since 1979. After the last calendar day of the year in which they turn fifteen, males may not leave Taiwan until completion of their military service. Since 1980, businessmen have been permitted to travel to and do business directly with certain Eastern European countries. Moreover, it is widely believed that the authorities are willing to overlook some personal travel to mainland China if handled discreetly.

Permission to leave Taiwan may be delayed or withheld for security reasons or because the persons involved have criticized the political establishment. Statistics released by the authorities indicate that in 1980, the last year for which we have figures, 949,306 persons applied for exit permission. Of that number, over 20,000 are reported to have been refused, 327 for security reasons and the rest for unspecified causes.

In general, the authorities recognize the right of repatriation of those Chinese holding Taiwan passports who normally reside in Taiwan. Those issued "overseas Chinese" passports do not automatically have the right to travel to Taiwan for permanent residence. In principle, Taiwan will not authorize the entry of Chinese, even those who have long held Taiwan passports, if they have lived in communist-controlled areas within the preceding five years.

Under its program of assistance to Indochinese refugees, Taiwan, through June 1982, has granted permanent resettlement to more than 4,700 such refugees, nearly all of them ethnic Chinese. It has also provided temporary asylum to nearly 2,000

Vietnamese "boat people" (refugees escaping by boat) awaiting acceptance by other countries.

e. Freedom to Participate in the Political Process

Reflecting their claim to be the Government of all of China, the Taiwan authorities possess an array of political bodies over and above those which pertain solely to the island of Taiwan. The locus of power on Taiwan is the presidency and the central executive branch. While representation of native Taiwanese in local and central legislative bodies has been increasing, Taiwanese are seriously under-represented in the powerful executive branch, in which persons who arrived from the mainland after 1945 hold the most powerful positions. There have been recent increases in the number of Taiwanese holding executive branch positions, however. The Vice President, about one-third of the cabinet (including the Vice Premier, the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Communications, and three Ministers without Portfolio), and the Governor of Taiwan, among others, are Taiwanese. Nevertheless, critics point out that their power and influence both individually and collectively are limited.

The most important elective bodies at the central level are the National Assembly, which elects the President and Vice President, and the Legislative Yuan, which is the Central Legislature. There have been no general elections to these two bodies since 1948, the authorities taking the position that such elections cannot be held until they re-establish control over the mainland. In October 1982 the Minister of the Interior explained that if overall elections were held the winners could not represent all of China, but only Taiwan province. Beginning in 1969, "supplementary elections" for these central bodies have been held to choose additional representatives from Taiwan and the adjacent islands. The advanced age and incapacity of many of the members of the Legislative Yuan elected on the mainland in 1948 forced the authorities in 1982 to lower the number of legislators required for a quorum. Supplemental legislators elected on Taiwan now constitute the most active group in the Legislative Yuan.

Since 1950, democratic institutions have been in operation at the provincial and local levels. Universal suffrage exists for all citizens twenty years of age and over. Elections have been held regularly for provincial, county and municipal offices, with Kuomintang candidates competing with independents and oppositionists. The Taiwan provincial governor and the mayors of Taipei and Kaohsiung, however, are appointed by the central authorities.

Despite the existence of two small, nominal opposition parties, Taiwan is dominated by one party. The Nationalist Party has ruled Taiwan since 1945 and is a "revolutionary" party whose structure and control mechanisms are based on early Soviet models. Party organs exist at all levels of the ruling structure, as well as in the military, schools, and other public institutions. New opposition parties are forbidden under martial law and candidates who oppose the Kuomintang in elections run as independents or "non-party" candidates. Even though the large majority of candidates elected are from the Kuomintang, independent candidates, nearly all Taiwanese, have increasingly been successful in the recent past. In the

provincial elections in November 1981, a loose coalition of "mainstream non-Kuomintang" candidates won about 30 percent of the votes cast, with non-aligned independents and members of the legal opposition parties winning an additional 10 percent. Independents won a similar share of votes in the previous provincial elections in 1977.

Independents face several disadvantages in the election process. The election law enacted in 1980 generally favors Kuomintang candidates, because its provisions, many of which are ambiguous, are interpreted by the central election committee which is controlled by the Kuomintang. The law forbids the participation of students, formerly a prime source of campaign workers for independent candidates, and allows only officially sponsored rallies in which all candidates participate together in the last few days before an election. Independent candidates are further disadvantaged by press self-censorship. The daily press tends to give little publicity to the views of the independents. Periodicals which publicize the views of independent candidates are subject to frequent censorship by the security police. However, such periodicals were not silenced during the provincial elections in November 1981, as they were during previous elections, and they have since been allowed to increase in number.

Women constitute 48 percent of Taiwan's population. The few laws which discriminate against them relate mostly to divorce issues and inheritance. Nearly 500 women were elected to city and town councils in June 1982, taking about 13 percent of the total seats up for election, while in the December 1980 "national" elections women candidates were the top two vote-getters. Regulations governing elections make some provision for guaranteed minimal representation of women in local and central legislative institutions. Enrollment of women in institutions of higher learning has increased 97 percent since 1952, to 411,000 in 1982. The number of women employed in ministries and other official agencies has increased by 40 percent since 1973. A fledgling women's rights movement is slowly growing.

Taiwan's only non-Chinese minority group is made up of descendants of Malayo-Polynesian immigrants who were already established in Taiwan when the first Chinese settlers arrived. Many of these aboriginal "mountain people," who comprise about one per cent of Taiwan's total population, live on restricted-access reservations, but most must compete with the Chinese majority for educational and job opportunities. There is no official policy of discrimination against the aborigines, and the authorities have instituted educational incentives and other social programs to ease their transition into Chinese society. The barriers created by de-facto cultural and economic discrimination, however, are frequently insurmountable. "Mountain people" are often relegated to low-paying, menial jobs by Chinese employers and many are forced to seek long-term employment overseas as fishermen or laborers. The rapid disintegration of tribal culture and the difficulty of "making it" in Chinese society have produced a general malaise within many aborigine communities, which is the source of the widespread alcoholism and "Jaziness" sometimes caricatured by unsympathetic Chinese. Special designated seats in both central and provincial legislative bodies are reserved for aborigine representatives.

3. Authorities' Attitude Regarding International and Non-governmental Investigation of Alleged Violations of Human Rights

The Taiwan authorities on occasion have permitted representatives of international human rights organizations, as well as private individuals interested in human rights issues, to visit Taiwan and meet with appropriate officials.

Taiwan's martial law was the subject of hearings before the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs of the House Foreign Affairs Committee in May 1982. Prior to this, four members of Congress issued an appeal to the Taiwan authorities calling for an end to the 33-year-old martial law.

The Chinese Human Rights Association, which in the past has focused its attention primarily on human rights questions in mainland China, has recently devoted more of its efforts to human rights in Taiwan. In 1982, the Association sponsored tours for law-makers and legal experts to examine Taiwan's crowded prisons and established a legal aid service for Taipei residents. The association has also put together a human rights report on Taiwan, which was to be released in late 1982. Freedom House, in its 1982 report, rates Taiwan as "Partly Free."

4. Economic, Social, and Cultural Situation

Taiwan has established an excellent record of providing for the social and economic needs of its people. In general, the opportunity to participate in economic benefits is available to the population as a whole without discrimination. The per capita gross national product (GNP) in 1981 was over \$2,500. Unemployment in the first half of 1982 averaged 1.62 percent. The authorities' fiscal 1983 budget allocated more than 30 percent of the total budget to education, science, culture, and social programs.

Although economic growth has recently fallen short of the spectacular rates achieved earlier (GNP grew at a rate of 3.91 percent in the first half of 1982, compared with the 1969-1979 average rate of 10 percent), the economy remains healthy. The prospects for continuing economic well-being are favorable as the authorities attempt to shift the focus of their export-based economy to high-technology industries.

Taiwan has developed an effective public health program and a system of health stations throughout the island - a total of more than 11,000 medical care facilities. In 1980, Taiwan had more than 7.5 physicians, 5.6 nurses, and 22 hospital beds for every 10,000 persons. Health promotion programs include maternal and child disease control and environmental sanitation. Major epidemic disease has been reduced, although limited outbreaks, such as a surge in polio cases in August 1982, still occur. Because of these public health programs and a generally good diet (per capita daily caloric intake exceeds 2,800), life expectancy has increased to 70 years for men and nearly 75 years for women. Taiwan's birth control efforts have been successful in bringing the birth rate in 1981 down to 1.77. This has been crucial in alleviating population tensions on the island, where the population density per square mile of cultivable land exceeds 5,000.

Education is one of the main concerns of the authorities and the population in general. Statistics show that 90.2 percent of the population over age six are literate. Of school-age children, 99.8 percent are currently in school and free compulsory education is available through junior high school. About 60 percent of junior high school graduates pass examina-

tions and enter three-year senior high and vocational school programs. Entry into Taiwan's extensive system of higher education is also based on competitive exams, and departures from a strict merit system are almost nonexistent. In 1982, more than 20 percent of college-age youth were enrolled as undergraduate or graduate students.