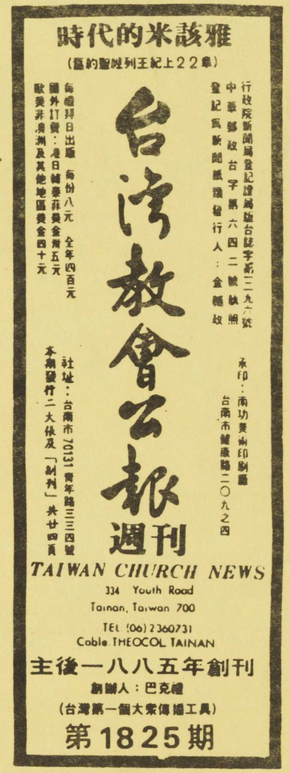
"TAIWAN CHURCH NEWS" CONFISCATED BY KMT

For the first time in over 100 years, the Taiwan Church News weekly did not get to its readers one week in February, because the Kuomintang government had confiscated it from the publisher. Almost 7,000 copies were taken--without due process of the law or a warrant.

Edition # 1825 of the Taiwan Church News (first page shown here) apparently drew the unprecedented police action because it raised the issue in public of the 40th anniversary of a massive murder campaign carried out by the Chiang Kai-Shek regime against the native Taiwanese people. At that time, Japan had been defeated and was leaving Taiwan, and U.S. General MacArthur had invited Chiang Kai-Shek, who had been defeated by the forces of Mao Tse-Tung in China, to take over the government of Taiwan. His government was so corrupt that the people of Taiwan called for his removal. Instead, native Taiwanese people were massacred in many cities of the island on Feb. 28, 1947. The KMT government followed the 2/28 massacre with the systematic murders of approx. 20,000 foreign-educated Taiwanese leaders. Fifty percent of those killed were Christians. Their relatives remain blacklisted today and are treated as subversives. The facts of the 2/28 murders have never in forty years been fully told in the Taiwanese press, which has been censored since before the 37 years of martial law, which still holds sway.


雅該米的代時
(舊約聖經列王紀上22章)
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TAIWAN CHURCH NEWS
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主後一八八五年創刊
創辦人：巴克禮
(台灣第一個大衆傳播工具)
第1825期

The Feb. 22 edition #1825 of Taiwan Church News called for Chistians to face the historical pain, and instead of promoting hatred, that all people of Taiwan should accept each other and call on the love of Christ to promote peace, justice, and harmony in the homeland. Evidently the KMT wanted no public reminders to go out to the people about the murders, even though the Church was only lifting up its pain in the light of seeking reconciliation.

Edition #1825 contained the following headline: "Love of the Cross to Eliminate Hatred. Moderator and General Secretary Appeal to All People of the Nation on the 40th Anniversary of the Feb. 28th Incident." In part, the text read:

> On the eve of the 40th anniversary of the 2/28 indicent, Moderator Yang (of the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan) appeals to all people of the nation to establish a homeland full of love and peace, according to Ephesians 2:14-15 by using the love of Christ to eliminate hatred and to build one family in Christ of native (Taiwanese) and mainlanders (Chinese).

THE CHURCH RESPONDS

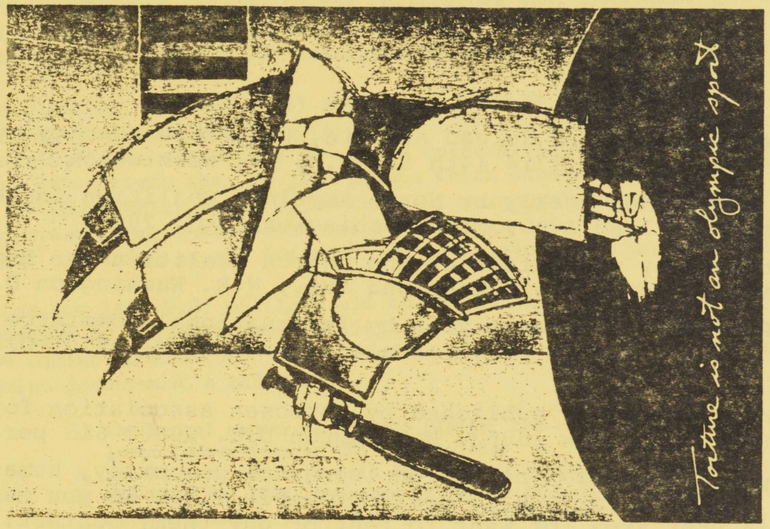
On March 11, 1987, about 100 pastors participated in a protest rally and requested the return of the confiscated newspaper. The president of Yu-San Theological Seminary, the chair of the Board of Directors of Tainan Theological Seminary and an ex-moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan participated with prayers and delivery of a protest letter to the government.

As of mid-March, however, the paper had not been returned to the church. Pressure from the church, worldwide, however, seemed to be having some effect, as the government was involved in negotiating a settlement.

ACTION SUGGESTION:

TAIWAN: Write to President Chiang Chin-Kuo (Presidential House, Taipei, Taiwan) urging him to accept the Church's good intention of calling for a new era of reconciliation and to release the confiscated newspaper immediately. Point out that such a gesture would greatly enhance the image of the government in Taiwan in the world community.

"STOP THE TORTURE" OLYMPIC POSTER AVAILABLE



This original full-color, 24" x 36" lithograph poster by prize-winning artist James Yang captures the irony of holding the 1988 Olympics in a country which routinely practices torture!

1-4 copies - $15.00 each
5-9 copies - $12.50 each
10 or more - $10.00 each

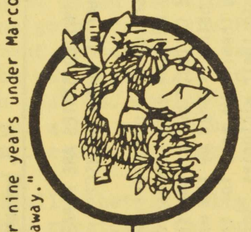
Sponsored by:
North American Coalition for Human Rights in Korea
110 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002

Price: $15.00 (plus $4.00 postage and handling in the U.S.)

Hope for Peace with Justice in the Philippines

The peace of a quiet afternoon can be broken by a ticking clock...
The peace of a tranquil life can be shattered by the pain of death...
The peace of a whole people can be destroyed by a web of violence spun out of injustice and oppression.

For many years the people of the Philippines have been caught in a web of violence and injustice which has destroyed lives and shattered their peace. One year ago, the gathered strength of the Filipino people, nourished by their faith, courageously "threw down the mighty from their thrones". But in the words of Fr. Ed de la Torre, parish priest imprisoned for nine years under Marcos, "the rich have not yet been sent empty away."



Let us hear the words of the people as they speak to us...

THE FARMER: Most of our land is owned by a small percentage of people. Those of us who earn our livelihood by share-cropping give the owner 50% of what is produced, daily becoming more dependent.

THE FACTORY WORKER: We are paid $2.50 per day. When we ask for more, the company threatens to leave for another country.

THE CLERGYPERSON: Many churches in the Philippines have taken a strong stand with the poor and those unjustly treated -- supporting them as they demand the right to live with dignity. But those whose wealth and power are threatened cry, "Communists"!

Please cut this half-page from the newsletter and copy it (both sides) for use in your church's bulletin!(Blot out these three lines first!)