

# Of Reagan and China

## ON THE UNIVERSITY RIGHT

by Joseph Sanlei

As a Republican, I am perhaps entitled to a few moments of gloating over the results of the past U.S. election. I think that I will savour those moments. The Free World will be in far more capable hands for the next four years than it has been for the last four.

Not only has the control of the White House been handed over through the auspices of the democratic process to a Republican Administration, but for the first time in twenty-six years the Senate is in Republican hands. In the house, the G.O.P. is but twenty-six seats away from a majority as well! I offer my heartfelt congratulations to the President-Elect, his administrations in waiting, the future leaders of the Upper House, and most heartily to the American people for the wisdom of their choice. I am glad that through the absentee-ballot system of the State of Connecticut, I was allowed to add my voice to the loud sound of acclaim which greeted the next President and Vice President of the United States last November 4th.

However, the purpose of this article is not to gloat. In fact, it is to point out a serious dilemma which now faces President-Elect Reagan. In addition to the matter of the hostages held by the Iranian terrorists under the sanction of that nation's fanatical government, now for more than one year; the battle of the tyrants now ensuing

between Iran and Iraq; the failing accords of Camp David; Soviet Communist adventurism, imperialism and militarism - all of which are accelerating; disunity among the world's democracies; the failure of NATO members to maintain an adequate defence posture. The next resident of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. will also have to decide what course the United States is going to take, in the near future, with regards to the Republic of China or Taiwan (ROC).

The ROC is increasingly maintaining an ever-leaky and tenuous ship of state with regards to International Law. As more and more countries recognize Peking (the capital of Red China) as the sole, legitimate government of all China, the province of Taiwan included, the tenure of Taipei (the ROC capital) as a viable center of government grows ever shorter. Now, it is obvious that Red China's size, population, and longevity as a state (calling itself the "People's Republic" - an unearned epithet not unlike others used to colorably mask communist dictatorships) entitle it, in a world of real-politic, to recognition. Ignoring the beast will not make it somehow go away. It may also prove useful for the Free World to exploit the Peking-Moscow rift as a way of maintaining a balance of power - the so-called "China car".


But these facts do not change the very substantive fact that off the coast of this Red giant, just across the narrow Strait of Formosa, there exist 17 million-plus people clinging to their tenuous position,

and fighting bravely for their right to remain non-communist.

Just as the Red Chinese leviathan's existence is beyond doubt, so too is the existence of the Republic of China. The ROC maintains the second highest standard of living for its people, and the second largest G.N.P. in all of Asia, next to Japan. The ROC also maintains a "partly-free" rating from Freedom House, the international watchdog of political liberty, and loses a "free" rating largely because of actions taken by Taipei in lieu of the besieged nature of the Republic. Yes, there have been and continues to be cases of unwarranted repression and corruption periodically throughout the ROC's history.

However, is anyone seriously willing to argue that repression is less on the Mainland?

The issue here is commitment - commitment to the principle of honoring alliances. Even if, as in this case with the recognition fo Peking, the nature, in legalistic terms, the nature of alliances are altered, the moral force remains in effect. President-Elect Reagan pledged a renewed American commitment to the friends of the U.S. in the Republic of China (a friendship going back to the 1911-12 in the revolution of Sun Yat Sen) during the campaign. It is my current hope that by employing carefully constructed means, this is one campaign pledge which will be honored. Good luck Mr. Reagan.



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