

Response to statement by China Center - Nancy Ing

I am shocked at this unwarranted attack.

The international P. E. N. Conference is supposed to be a literary conference. It seems to me that a political matter like this should be brought up in the United Nations, not here.

Ever since 1974, when we were forced to change our name from the Chinese Center to Taipei Chinese Center, we have always used this name at these meetings. I do admit that our Chinese name remains unchanged. We never thought of changing it as to us it is an internal matter so long as we do not use it at the International P. E. N. Conference. We have been accused of cheating. There was no such intention. However, the name of our country is Republic of China, and theirs is People's Republic of China. We may not like or agree with each other's names, but that is a fact that should not be debated here.

I hate to bore our fellow delegates, but since Mr. Yeh has brought this up and many new delegates are not aware of what has happened, I am forced to take up a few minutes of your time to read the statements I have made before: one in Israel, 1974, when we first changed our name, and the other in Bled, Yugoslavia, 1980, when they were admitted to the International P. E. N.

┌ 1974 statement
1980 statement ┘

And while we are on the question of ~~the~~ names, I would like to point out that it is not we who have played with names. The new center joined as The China Center, Beijing. The next year they added two more centers, Chinese Guangzhou and Chinese Shanghai.

Due to illness in the family, I was not there. When I received minutes of that meeting, I was upset to find that our name and Hong Kong's had all been changed according to theirs — Chinese Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei and all under the China Center. We immediately protested to Peter Elstob. This was especially upsetting to us as we had originally not been permitted to use ~~Chinese~~ Taipei Center as it was said that UNESCO could not accept it.

The next time we received minutes from the International P.E.N. Secretariat, we saw that they had again changed the names of their two centers to Guanzhou Chinese Center and Shanghai Chinese Center, giving the appearance that we all belong together. We did

not react to this because we did not want to burden International P.E.N. and our fellow delegates with such obvious political matters.

As a matter of fact, ~~not~~^{only} yesterday we saw ^{above} ~~over~~ the books displayed by the China Center a big sign ^{on which was written} with People's Republic of China, ~~on it~~. We did not bring this up since it is the name of their country. They accuse our participants of using Republic of China in their literary presentations. I had told all our participants that we only use Taipei Chinese Center at all P.E.N. meetings here. Coming as individual writers, we do not represent our government. But our two younger members did not realize that it was not even allowed to use R. O. C. to identify where we come from.

JOINT STATEMENT BY CHINA PEN CENTRE, SHANGHAI CHINESE PEN
CENTRE AND GUANGZHOU CHINESE PEN CENTRE

Caracas, September 28, 1983

We China PEN Centre, Shanghai Chinese PEN Centre and Guangzhou Chinese PEN Centre, wish to draw the attention of the participants of this Congress to the fact that Taipei Chinese PEN Centre has deliberately made use of this non-political literary congress to create two Chinas by distributing in the Congress hall publications printed with the label "Republic of China", which is non-existent as the United Nations and Unesco, to which the International PEN is related, has long since recognized that there is only one China, i.e., the People's Republic of China, and that Taiwan is an integral part of China. Apart from this, in the copyright pages of the distributed publications it is also printed in English, that they are published by "Taipei Chinese PEN Centre" which is the official title registered with International PEN and is correct, but in its Chinese translation it turns out to be "PEN Centre of Republic of China". This is plain cheating, taking the advantage of the fact that most of the participants of this Congress do not read Chinese. It is also an insult to the intelligence of the participants of this Congress and an open challenge to the Charter of International PEN. As a matter of fact this dishonest practice had already occurred in the London meeting of Assembly of Delegates in the spring of last year and delegates from Taipei Chinese PEN Centre were then warned in a decision made at the meeting that similar case must not recur by any means. Unfortunately, the similar case does happen again in this Congress. What is more, in addition to the distributed publications, a delegate from Taipei Chinese PEN Centre, in reading his paper entitled "Latin American Poetry in Taiwan", at the Forum on Latin American Literature, interspersed his passages with shouting of the fictitious term "Republic of China". All these practices show that they are premeditated. We three centres can no longer tolerate this deliberate defiance and contempt of the principles of International PEN. We request that International PEN make clear its stand in this matter and see to it that Taipei Chinese PEN Centre publicly admits its misconduct to the participants of this Congress and guarantee strict adherence to the Charter of International PEN in the future. Failing this, we three Chinese Centres have no other choice but to reconsider our position towards this international writers' organization.