

Eulogy

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IN MEMORIAM

Eulogy

SU CHI[†]

We gather today to pay our last tribute to Professor Hungdah Chiu. Before my departure from Taipei, President Ma Ying-jeou of the Republic of China asked me specifically to convey his personal and heartfelt condolences to Madame Chiu and her dear family members. He is deeply saddened by the loss of a brilliant mind, a great patriot and, above all, a beloved teacher.

Indeed, Professor Chiu had been a mentor and intellectual guide not only to President Ma, but to an entire generation of scholars, policy thinkers as well as practitioners in Taiwan. Although he had resided in the U.S. for half a century, his intellectual influence on the public opinion as well as policy-making inside Taiwan was profound and persistent throughout the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, as if he had been living there all along.

Those were the times when Taiwan rapidly transformed itself internally from the stage of “economic growth” to that of “social diversification” and then to “political liberalization,” and externally from confrontation across the Taiwan Strait to a more moderate relationship. It was no small feat for Taiwan to sail through these gigantic transformations smoothly and, I am not humble to say, quite successfully. And Professor Chiu played a key role in those processes by speaking knowledge to power, by standing tall against adversities, and by his sheer personal integrity.

Other than his numerous writings on international law, he stood out in the 1970s and 1980s when few others dared to speak out, as a fervent voice for democratic reform in Taiwan. He believed it was not only the right thing to do after Taiwan’s economy matured to certain degree, but a smart thing to do because it would enable Taiwan to withstand the devastating diplomatic avalanche. Also, due

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to his belief in democracy, he had severely criticized communism as an ideology and political system all his life.

He also cared deeply about peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. All his life he opposed Taiwan's de jure independence because he believed it would only court disaster for Taiwan and the entire Chinese people. Instead, he advocated very early a rapprochement across the Strait based upon the principles of equality, democracy and gradualism. His tireless effort in this regard had won him high esteem in both Taiwan and the Mainland—indeed a rare achievement at the time.

Professor Chiu was also a firm believer in strong ties between the U.S. and Taiwan. All his life he had helped the people in the U.S. understand Taiwan and helped the people in Taiwan understand the U.S. He endeavored on many occasions to improve the goodwill and reduce the misunderstanding across the Pacific Ocean. Among other things, he was most remembered for facilitating the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act that was to lay the foundation for US-Taiwan relations and for safeguarding the Twin Oaks as the symbol of the long-standing friendship between our two nations.

It is certainly not easy to have accomplished so much in such a short, indeed too short, lifetime. As we all know, he drew enormous inner strength from his family—his beloved wife, his parents, his brothers and sister, his child, his grandchildren and last but not least, his dogs. He lived a life so great that it takes all of us here now to remember it.

After Confucius passed away over two thousand years ago, scholars of centuries past have called him 萬世師表, meaning A Teacher of All Times. I believe Professor Chiu aptly deserves that title, for what he had contributed to the scholarship and the practical world.

We loved you, 丘老師. We respected you. And I salute you. And may you rest in peace.