

Provincial Level. British Columbia has recently expanded its trade office in Taipei to include one person responsible for educational matters. The operation is jointly administered and funded by the Ministries of Education, and Advanced Education and Technology. Its functions are (a) to assist and evaluate the English proficiency of Taiwanese students applying to enter secondary schools in British Columbia; and (b) to familiarize Taiwan students with post-secondary institutions in B.C., assist applicants, and, at a later date, promote academic linkages between post-secondary institutions in B.C. and Taiwan.

PART TWO: RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS

For reasons of political practicality and operational efficiency, as well as general principle, individual scholars, universities and research institutes should be the driving force in academic exchanges. The only solid and durable foundation for intellectual exchange, joint research projects, and institutional linkages is contact at the ground level.

Governments should play two roles. The first is in the traditional areas of promoting Canadian studies abroad and recruiting qualified students into the university and college systems across Canada. The second function is peculiar to the Taiwan case. It concerns the legitimization of the process of academic exchange. In addition to all of the normal difficulties inherent in intellectual contact, Taiwan raises special problems. One of these is the prudential worry that institutional relations with Taiwan will jeopardize existing, hard won, relations with mainland China. Canada's relationship with the PRC has been a high priority issue for much of the past two decades. Considering that governments on both sides play a dominant role in most aspects of the relationship, official sensitivities are especially important.

There is also a vague but unmistakable feeling that Taiwan and the Republic of China are out of bounds, illicit and, in some minds, unsavory. The historical roots of this go back to Canadian responses to the corrupt and repressive government of Chiang Kai-shek on the mainland. More recently, this hands-off attitude has reflected official government policy and the perception that Taiwan is a pariah state as evidenced in its exclusion from most international organizations.

Recent steps by the federal government to change this perception have paid dividends. Ottawa's quiet support for Taiwanese participation in the Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference (PECC) process, the opening and expansion of the CTOT, the expansion of informal diplomatic contacts, are all sending new signals. A small but symbolic contribution from DEA to the 1988 Toronto Symposium on Taiwan, as well as the success of the symposium, did a great deal to allay worries and build confidence among provincial officials and university administrators.

The following are suggestions for specific action in three areas of academic and educational exchange. Though the problems and prospects differ in each area, they are