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a students' union forum

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with speaker

**CY GONICK**

author of *Inflation and Depression: The Continuing Crisis of*  
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**IS CANADA HEADED FOR  
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**SHOTGUN**

## CIA, PLO, IRA, KGB-KMT

The press has recently covered the conviction of 13 political prisoners in Taiwan. However, five other persons also implicated in the case have not yet been accounted for.

The 18 were secretly arrested this summer by the Kuomintang (KMT), the ruling party in Taiwan. Nothing further was heard about them until Amnesty International (AI) learned that one of them, Chen Ming-chung, had been secretly tried and sentenced to death around Nov. 10.

The AI report spurred an international effort to save Chen.

Public protests finally forced the KMT to openly acknowledge the arrests for the first time on Nov. 26, but the KMT also denied that Chen had ever been sentenced to death. The next day the KMT announced that Chen and seven others had been sentenced to between three and fifteen years imprisonment.

It is unlikely that Chen *et al* could have been openly and fairly tried within that one-day period; rather, it seems more likely that the announcements were conceived as short-termed appeasements of the current

public indignation.

The case of Chen *et al* is typical in that they were convicted on charges of being "communist spies," while AI sources indicate that they were 'guilty' of reading some Japanese books containing articles on science in the Peoples' Republic of China. This is consistent with the KMT's traditional policy of branding all opposition as being pro-communist, and eradicating all traces of 'communist' influence, at any cost.

The 'chilling' effort of the KMT's suppression of any political dissidence is by no means limited to Taiwan, but even extends to the United States. In February this year, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, after the uncovering of a spying incident by a Taiwan national, concluded that:

"There is sufficient information supplied by SACC (a student organization) members and from university sources in the United States to warrant a further and

more detailed inquiry by the national education group on foreign surveillance activities of home governments on their nationals in this country."

Similar incidents have been reported from other campuses across the nation.

In view of the above facts, the safety of the five, and possibly many others whose fate is not known is cause for concern. The international effort to save them as well as other political prisoners in Taiwan continue.

We hope that the press will be more objective and fair in reporting affairs on Taiwan, not taking glowing accounts from official sources at face value. In particular, we believe the press should investigate further and inform the American public of political oppression in Taiwan and the extension thereof to the United States.

Committee to Stop Secret Execution of Political Prisoners in Taiwan (C.S.S.E.P.P.T.), P.O. Box 57th., #503, Chicago, Illinois

## No business like woe business

DENVER (CPS-CUP) —If God is dead, what's left? Plenty, according to a recent Gallup poll which indicates that millions of Americans are turning to transcendental meditation, yoga, astrology and the charismatic movement.

Six million Americans have embraced TM according to the poll. A few years ago the TM pitch said if one per cent of the population repeated their coded mantras twice a day, peace, and freedom and other facsimiles

would appear.

Yoga runs a strong second, with 5 million participants and the charismatic movement a religious group which interested itself in holding prayer groups and understanding many languages, registered 3 million followers in the poll.

Strology claims 32 million devotees, mostly women, with 10 per cent of Americans poll knowing their astrological sign.

Eastern religions have pulled in 2 million Americans, the poll found.

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