

Bangkok, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2002

From: Master Leong Wai Meng  
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To: Mr. Russell MacLellan, Mr. Chang Ung and ITF members.

Subject: A Call For A Special Congress

Dear Sirs,

It is with great respect that the ITF Consultative Council is writing to you with a sincere intention to solve the deadlock facing our ITF leadership today.

#### What happened at Pyongyang?

As you already know there was a sort of Congress being held in Pyongyang during General Choi's memorial with the participation of representatives from 40 countries. Our ITF lawyers in Vienna deemed the said Congress unconstitutional. As Chairman of the Consultative Council, I together with Master Phap Lu, have personally questioned the leaders and organizers of the Congress for over three hours regarding the legality of the process. We have pointed out to them that they will be breaking ITF Constitution Article 10 points 3 and 4. However, the Consultative Council members voted 4 to 2 in favor of carrying on with the planned Congress. It is the policy that once there is a majority vote in the Consultative Council, the Council has to speak with one voice. As Chairman of the Consultative Council, I was asked by the members to talk to the delegates during the Congress. However, I insisted that I had to inform the ITF members present that they were breaking the ITF Constitution by that Congress and I explained to them ITF Constitution Article 10.

During the said Congress in Pyongyang, although a few Grandmasters and leaders spoke to the members, there wasn't a vote conducted to elect Mr. Chang Ung to the position of President. Grandmaster Rhee Ki Ha asked everyone to stand up to clap as Mr. Chang Ung enters the meeting hall. Since there was no vote taken, until now we still do not know how many people would have voted for or against Mr. Chang Ung for the ITF Presidency. To me it was the most extra-ordinary way to hold a Congress.

The next day the Consultative Council was called to have a meeting with Mr. Chang Ung. At that meeting, Mr. Chang Ung asked the Council to allow him to conduct an official audit of the ITF accounts up till the stating date of his alleged Presidency. This was because Mr. Chang Ung wanted to start his Presidency with a fresh and cleared account. We advised that an official audit could be done on ITF's third quarter's accounts instead, in October 2002. This would be in line with normal book keeping practice. Otherwise a sudden call for an official audit would give the wrong impression to some people. This was accepted by all.

Grandmaster Hwang Kwang Sung was not at the meeting because he was not a member of the Council. However, I do not know where he got his news from, he has painted very negative pictures of the ITF accounts and General Secretary Master Tom MacCallum which were not correct. At the meeting we have NEVER at any time questioned the integrity of Master Tom MacCallum. In fact, his name has never been brought up. The state of ITF's finance and its book keeping methods and the integrity of the bookkeeper have NEVER been discussed. There were never any sign or evidence to support any irregularity. The only reason Mr. Chang Ung wanted to have an official audit was to start his presidency with a clean and cleared account.

#### Why It Happened?

What we have to do now is to investigate and analyse the reason why this event can happen. At this moment of time, nobody wants the ITF to split into two. The problems with Master Choi Jung Hwa have already taxed a lot of our energy. I believe nobody really wish to burn a witch, or to chop off heads, or to start pointing fingers and sack people. Why? Because we are one, we are all TKD brothers and sisters. We would like to promote unity in diversity. To do that we have to be extra tolerant, forgiving and adaptive to new and strange ways foreign to our normal cultural, spiritual and political thinking patterns. To take a hard and punitive stance is easy, which will cause more harm than good. But to Love and understand and tenderly correct will bring forgiveness, strength, understanding, Love and Unity.

First of all, we must understand that there are two patterns of culture and thought form. One is western and the other eastern. After General Choi Hong Hi has given His last wish that Mr. Chang Ung should succeed him and passed on, there were two sets of mind interpreting His wish. One, the western mind says that it wishes to fulfill General Choi's last wish and that Mr. Chang Ung who is from communist North Korea is welcome to be the President of ITF. Let's create a time frame in such a way that Mr. Chang Ung can come in only in year 2005, this is because our members do not know who Mr. Chang Ung is.

In year 2005 if our members feel that Mr. Chang Ung is alright, they will democratically vote him as President. In this process and thinking pattern, Mr. Chang Ung needn't need General Choi to endorse him. He can come as a delegate member to the ITF Congress to try his luck. Why General Choi endorses Mr. Chang Ung in His last wish twice? This is something which we have to consider.

Two, the eastern mind. The eastern mind stresses the importance of serving ones Teacher and Parents with all ones mind, with all ones strength and with all ones Heart. As you treat your Teacher and as you treat your Parents, you will feel the effects in this Life time itself. Therefore, when General Choi stated His last wish of Mr. Chang Ung being His successor. The Asians took it to be an unquestionable directive from the dying Teacher and this directive must be carried out immediately. To them that was an extra ordinary directive in an extra ordinary situation, therefore it calls for extra ordinary actions to implement their Teacher's last wish as soon as possible, so that our Teacher's soul can rest in peace.

You see, the western mind looks at General Choi as a respected teacher like a high school's professor. But the eastern mind looks to General Choi as a Teacher like a Guru, a Spiritual Guide who points the finger towards "Nirvana", a supreme state of Wisdom over ignorance, bringing one from darkness to Light, and from death to Immortality.

If we study this matter carefully, we will start to understand the whys. After all, to understand the whys is to understand the Truth. Understanding Truth confers Peace, Compassion and Love.

So there is the difference in the Intensity of Desire in carrying out General Choi's last wish by the two minds. The western mind wants to have it done in a few years' time, as there is no great hurry, while the eastern mind wants it to be implemented immediately out of deep respect.

Truly speaking, both the western mind and the eastern mind are both correct in their own ways. Both are conditioned to think in those ways since childbirth. To point a finger to say who is right and who is wrong only reveals our ignorance in the cultural and spiritual diversities of our planet.

The Asians have now taken an improper and unconstitutional initiative to implement General Choi's last wish. One thing we know, and that includes myself and Mr. Russell MacLellan, we all want to see that General Choi's last wish carried out, but it should be done properly. So where do we go from here.

### A Call For A New Congress

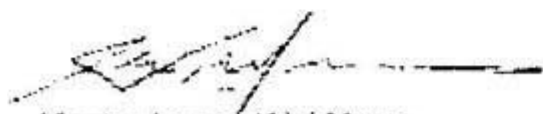
Master Phap Lu and I have been talking to all the Consultative Council members lately except Master Hwang Jin. I had the chance to talk to Master Hwang Jin just before departing Pyongyang and he has indicated that there will be problems and he said to me "meeting", with his hands gesturing a get together. Thus, I take it that he was in favor of a kind of Congress. All Council members favor the President of the ITF to call for an immediate Special Congress in a place where DPR Koreans, Muslim countries and third world countries will not find difficulties getting visas to attend. Master Tan Chek Si has indicated that his state of Johor is able to organize the Special Congress for the ITF at short notice in Malaysia.

Sirs, it is the wish of all to have Mr. Chang Ung to be President of ITF. Even Mr. Russell MacLellan has said so many times himself and the most recent a few days ago in his letter. With this combine wish of the world membership, if we call for a Special Congress in one month's time, we will be able to diffuse a very big and explosive problem. Whether Mr. Chang Ung is elected or not is another thing. The ITF lawyers deemed the Congress held at Pyongyang unconstitutional, and we must bear in mind that there was no vote conducted at that time. However, I have with me letters from 40 countries requesting for a Special Congress to decide on Mr. Chang Ung's position. The Consultative Council now calls on the ITF President to call for a Special Congress with 4 weeks notice to all members to attend.

We would advise that Mr. Russell MacLellan and Mr. Chang Ung to meet as soon as possible to discuss things over and decide on a suitable place and time for the Special Congress.

I thank you for your kind attention and I hope to hear from you soon.

Yours in Taekwon-do



Master Leong Wai Meng  
Chairman of ITF Consultative Council

Copies to: 1. All Consultative Council Members  
2. All NGBs