

UNITED KINGDOM TAE KWON-DO ASSOCIATION

KOREAN ART OF SELF DEFENCE

PRESIDENT:
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I.T.F. 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION REPORT

Thursday 20th March 1986 saw the arrival of Taekwon-Do instructors from all over the world at Vienna International Airport. They had come to Vienna for a specific purpose. That purpose was to celebrate 20 years of excellence in Taekwon-Do under our Founder, General Choi Hong Hi. Yes, the International Taekwon-Do Federation was 20 years old. To the uninitiated, Taekwon-Do had been brought into the world in 1955 in South Korea, it was however not until 1966 that the I.T.F. was founded.

Each member country has directors representing them in the I.T.F. and it was these directors who had been invited to participate in the weeks celebrations and meetings.

Friday 21st March saw a day long session of the standing committee. The committee, very much like the management committee of our own U.K.T.A. sought to clarify existing policies and formulate new ones. Representing us, is our own Master Rhee Ki Ha 8th Dan, who is also one of the Vice Presidents of the I.T.F.

Saturday 22nd saw all delegates convene at the headquarters of the I.T.F. A corner building of quite impressive dimensions on a street called Stollgasse. The headquarters comprises of office space for the Under Secretary General and Receptionist and an office for the Secretary General, Master J.T. Park 8th Dan. The training area is divided into two sections with a portrait of General Choi overlooking one area, showers and changing rooms are out of eye sight. Potential practitioners have a glass partition to see through in order to assess the merits of starting training, in what has over the years come to be known as the worlds most powerful Martial Art.

The mornings proceedings began with a speech from General Choi Hong Hi, in his speech he outlined the historic journey of Taekwon-Do from its infancy to its present world wide status. He re-emphasized the need for all committed Taekwon-do members to continue to strive for perfection.

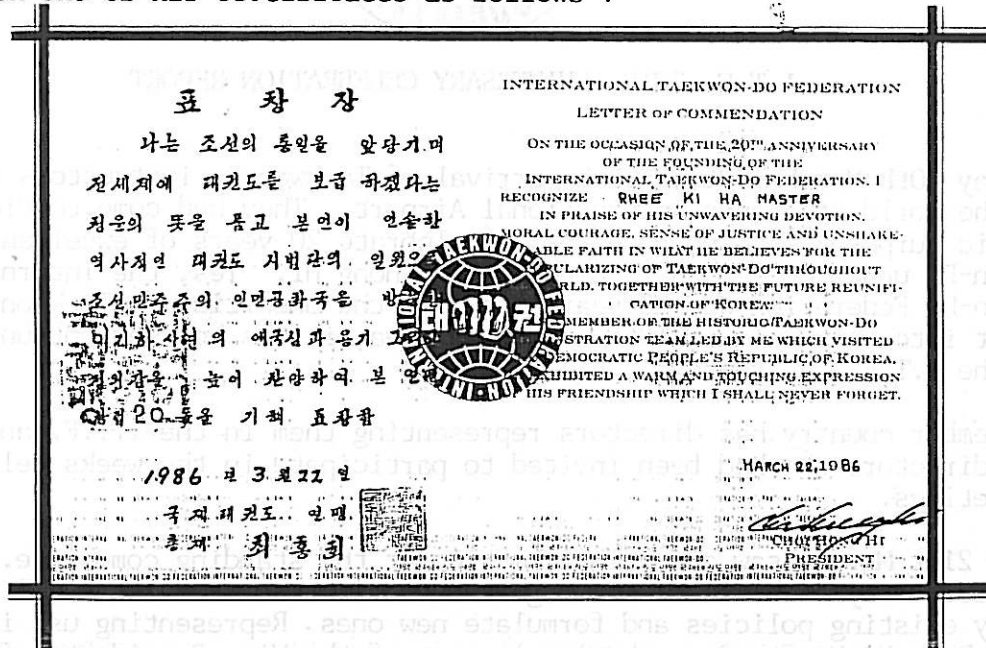
A presentation of the 15 volumes of The Taekwon-Do Encyclopedia was made to the Russian Attache in Vienna. Hopefully Russia will be the future recipient of a Taekwon-Do demonstration team.

Presentations of letters of commendation to various people followed. These were tokens of gratitude and appreciation bestowed on instructors who had made, in many cases the ultimate sacrifice of leaving home and country to introduce Taekwon-Do abroad. Heading the list was our own Master Rhee Ki Ha 8th dan, who received Commendatory Certificates for pioneer work in the countries of Singapore, The United Kingdom and Ireland.

MEMBER OF MARTIAL ARTS COMMISSION
AFFILIATED TO INTERNATIONAL TAE KWON-DO FEDERATION

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Words of praise from our Founder of Master Rhee's dedication to Taekwon-Do were imprinted on one of his Certificates as follows :-



A demonstration followed where students, 4th Dans and above who had attended the seminar and the 2 weeks training course, displayed sections of their recently polished skills. The 'piece de resistance' was supplied by the North Korean 4th, 5th and 6th Dans, who treated the distinguished audience to a series of multiple mid air breaks, the highest number being 5 targets before landing. The day ended with a reception given in honour of the delegates and members of their families.

Sunday 23rd proved to be a relaxing day touring the sights of Austria with lunch taken in a real live Austrian Castle. Vienna is an ancient city steeped in the fine arts and abounding in architectural wonders. The following two days, Monday and Tuesday, saw the delegates getting down to the seminar work of planning the future of the I.T.F. in their own countries. Reports of progress in various countries were read with constructive comments passed on numerous subjects.

The petition which everyone was asked to promote was the culmination of months of non-replies from the W.T.F. and North Korea. Master Yun Y.K. of Australia indeed deserves praise for the efforts spent on attempting to bring the other side to the negotiating table.

Wednesday 26th saw a seminar and training session conducted by Master Park with members of 7th Dan and below in attendance. All in all the week spent, profited all involved as it presented a time to reflect on ones achievements, ones set-backs and in being given a chance to compare notes with fellow colleagues from around the world. It can only mean that the future of I.T.F. Taekwon-Do is secure for generations to come.

By Raymond M.K. Choy V Dan
Chairman U.K.T.A./Director I.T.F.