

ASIAN STUDENT VOICE

Asian Student Union, SFSU, volume 4 ~ No.1, February 1977



ASU demands immediate normalization of U.S.-China relations!

"One China, US Out of Taiwan!", and "Down with the reactionary KMT, Normalize relations with the PRC!" were two rousing chants raised by hundreds of people marching in the first historic march through Chinatown on October 23, 1976, militantly demanding the immediate normalization of US-China relations. Sponsored by the Chinatown Committee to Demand the Normalization of Relations Between the U.S. and the People's Republic of China, the march was one of several events in the Bay Area held during October with the purpose of building support for Socialist China and the demand for normalization. The Asian Student Union was an active participant in these Pro-China events and we publicized them as part of work last semester.

This spring semester, we are once again participating with other progressive & revolutionary organization to build a mass Bay Area wide campaign in support of immediate normalization of US-China relations. Our participation in this coalition will be an important priority for ASU and we hope to involve all progressive students at SFSU to support this campaign. We hope to advance the Pro-China movement on campus and consider it important to organize students into a force supporting China.

As shown through the 1976 march in Chinatown the question of normalization has become a mass and urgent question raised by the masses of American people. Normalization would mean the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the U.S. and the People's Republic of China. (PRC) We see the establishment of normal US-China relations in the interests of the masses of American and Chinese people and as a con-

International Hotel

Masses stop evictions!

"Stop the Eviction, We won't Move!" was one of the many chants raised by thousands of supporters of the International Hotel in recent mass demonstrations demanding that the present owners, Four Seas Corporation and the City government cease all eviction attempts.

The I-Hotel stands at 848 Kearny St. in the Chinatown/Manilatown community of San Francisco. It is one of the few low cost housing sites in this area available to elderly Chinese & Pilipino people, most of whom are on fixed incomes. It also stands as a center of progressive activity within Chinatown, housing many active community organizations, such as the Chinese Progressive Association, who are fighting for the rights of Chinese people in the US.

Since 1969, the owners of the hotel have been trying to evict the tenants in order to demolish the hotel and replace it with more profitable enterprises, for example-parking lots, professional offices, etc. This blatant disregard for the community's needs, and the destruction of our historic community has been met with resistance. For 8 years, the International Hotel tenants and their thousands of suppor-

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Editorial — Join the ASU!

For the Spring semester of 1977, the Asian Student Union would like to encourage all students who agree with our Principles of Unity, political perspective, ideas and ongoing work, to join the ASU. Your participation in planning programs, doing outreach, working with other members and promoting the views of the ASU is needed, and will contribute to the progressive and revolutionary movement as a whole.

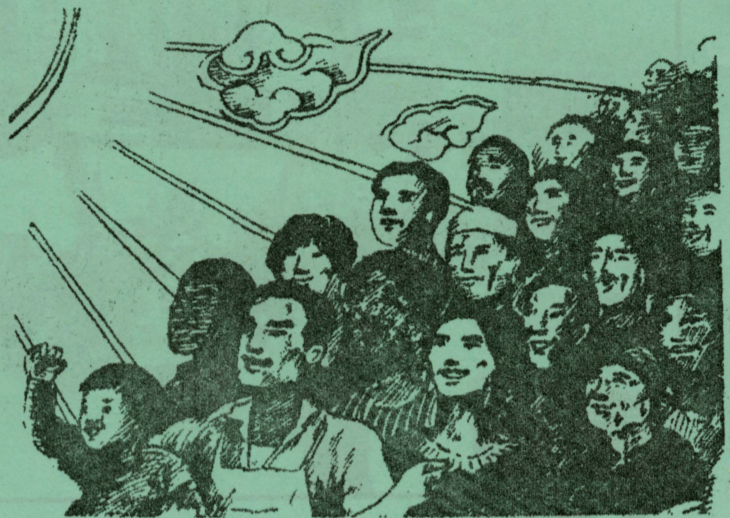
Our organization was formed in the Spring of 1974 to organize Asian students against the special oppression Third World people face in the U.S. We strive for fundamental social change as the only way to end our exploitation and oppression in this society. We have united around the following principles of unity:

1. To promote the commitment of students to change society.
2. To build unity among Asian students in light of our common oppression.
 - a) To fight racism and national oppression which are inherent in the U.S. economic and political system.
 - b) To build the Asian Student Movement as an integral part of the Asian & progressive movements.

In all the programs and activities of the ASU, we strive to bring out our Principles of Unity, and to unite other students around them. We see that it is not enough to simply acknowledge the inequalities and injustices that Asian people have experienced. We must also see ourselves doing something about our oppression. By analyzing and understanding its roots and actively organizing against it. As Asian people, we have suffered under national oppression and vicious exploitation under the imperialist system, and we see today that national oppression affects us in all aspects of our lives; on the campus, in the communities, in the workplaces, and in all institutions of society.

With this understanding of society, the ASU hopes to reach out to larger numbers of students and to broaden our programs. Some of our activities have already begun.

For example, we are currently working in a Bay Areawide coalition composed of community groups, revolutionary organizations, working people and students, to demand the immediate normalization of relations between the U.S. and the People's Republic of China. We support the demand for normalization and feel it is particularly important for students to learn from China's socialist society. China's achievements



in building socialism and her support for oppressed peoples around the world are an inspiration to all of us and offers many lessons.

Along with the Normalization of Relations campaign, we are also planning an International Women's Day celebration (IWD) on campus. March 8th commemorates the struggles and contributions of women around the world, and this date has special meaning for Third World women. For the ASU, we plan to celebrate IWD as an important day to draw lessons for all working and oppressed people, and will try to analyze the roots and forms of oppression that Asian women face in America. This event will also help to build unity between the men and women in the ASU by working together to plan the event.

Another major area of work for the ASU will be the mobilization of students in support of the struggles of Asian people in the communities and workplaces. This semester we are focusing especially on the International Hotel and CANE (Committee Against Nihonmachi Eviction) struggles. The fight to save the I-Hotel in SF Chinatown/Manilatown, and CANE's struggle against the SF Redevelopment Agency's destruction in Japan-Town are issues Asian students should fully support.

Our organization is also consciously working with other Asian student groups, in addition to campus work and community support work. Doing joint work with other Asian student organizations and learning from each other's experiences is an important way to build unity within the Asian Student Movement. This semester we'll continue to work with the ASU's of UC Berkeley and Laney College in Oakland and hope to make ties with other similar groups.

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ASU Supports

CANE



The following speech was delivered at the rally and demonstration at City Hall, on behalf of SFSU, UCB and Laney ASU's:

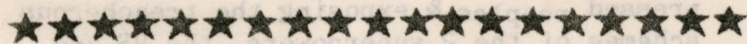
The Asian Student Unions of San Francisco State, UC Berkeley, and Laney College are here to express our wholehearted support for the CANE struggle. In organizing students on campus, we have always strived to learn from and give support to our people in the communities. We see this as a fundamental part of our fight against the oppression of Asian people in America.

The attempts by the government and its agencies to destroy Nihonmachi (JapanTown) is a continuation of the oppression we have faced historically. Nihonmachi's were formed due to the racism and exploitation we faced upon our arrival. This was a positive development in the struggle to maintain our language, culture and fight for our rights.

CANE and the Sutter/Laguna tenants are indeed an inspiration to us in fighting national oppression. We fully agree with their demands to maintain a community which meets the needs of Japanese people. We will continue to work on campuses to build mass support for the struggles of the Japanese community, and particularly against the destruction of Nihonmachi. It is thru mass support such as shown here today that the Sutter/Laguna tenants and the Japanese people will seize victory.

We in the ASU ask all students to show your support for the CANE struggle, to save and restore a Japanese community that meets the needs of workers, tenants, and small shopkeepers. We will be participating in future activities of CANE.

You can contact CANE at 921-8841, or stop by at 1858 Sutter St in S.F.



On Saturday, November 20th, the Committee Against Nihonmachi Eviction, (CANE) held a demonstration in front of City Hall in which over 200 people came out to show their support for the CANE struggle. While a delegation of 12 people (tenants, members of CANE, community organizations and students) met with Mayor Moscone and the Redevelopment Agency (RDA) officials.

For months, the Japanese community has been trying to meet with Moscone, but each time, the Mayor has refused. Through continual pressure from CANE & the community, Moscone was finally forced to hold this meeting. Moscone has historically disregarded the needs of the Japanese community, inspite of the campaign promises he once made. His insistance on meeting with only a small delegation while refusing to meet with the entire community shows his indifference and his fear of this indifference being exposed in the Japanese community.

CANE's demands are:

1. RDA cancel demolition plans for 1620-22, 1714 Laguna St., 1529 and 1531 Sutter St. and 1869 Buchanan St.;
2. RDA stop the sale of the Sutter/Laguna buildings;
3. RDA repair the Sutter/Laguna buildings, Waraku Sushi Bar, 1869 Buchanan, and 1531 Sutter St. and allow tenants to remain there at rents they can afford;
4. The construction of Sumitomo bank be halted; that low rent housing be built instead.

Mayor Moscone said no to all the demands. To show their determination to fight for their just demands, 8 people from the delegation staged a sit-in and remained in Moscone's office until taken by tactical police.

It is clear that Mayor Moscone and RDA under the disguise of "urban renewal" are just part of a system that is continually oppressing and exploiting 3rd world communities for the interests of a few. This can be seen when one visits "Japan-Town", which in reality, is rapidly becoming a tourist trap.



ASU DEMANDS IMMEDIATE NORMALIZATION OF U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS—



(con't. from page 1)

crete way to deepen the friendship between our two peoples. Normalization would mean a major blow against the U.S. government and its intervention in China's internal affairs.

The U.S. government's continued intervention and occupation of Taiwan, a province of China; remains the main obstacle blocking the establishment of normal relations. Taiwan is an inalienable part of China. Although the reactionary Koumingtang (KMT) was kicked out of the Mainland in 1949; the Chiang Kai-Shek clique claims to represent all the Chinese people. Through military and economic backing of the reactionary Chiang clique, the US government is supporting a thoroughly bankrupt and exploitive regime in order to protect its own imperialist interests in Asia. US armed forces and military bases are still on Chinese soil and the 1954 Mutual Defense Treaty between the US and KMT ensures continued US military and economic backing. For the U.S., Taiwan's strategic location is crucial to its domination in Asia and provides an economic haven for imperialist super-profits.

The aggressive intervention, occupation and exploitation in Taiwan by the US is just another example of its imperialist role throughout the world, particularly in Asia, Africa and Latin America. We see the KMT as nothing more than an oppressive militarist regime propped up by the US against our Third World brothers and sisters. Taiwan is another familiar example of US imperialism's aggression, not so different from its aggression against the Korean and Vietnamese peoples.

In order to justify its aggression against the PRC, the US government has slandered and distorted the accomplishments of the Chinese people in building socialist society. We have been denied the truth about China and infact some of us have been accepted incorrect ideas about China. Since 1949, China has been a unique and inspiring example for all oppressed people worldwide.

China is an example of a Third World country which rose up and overthrew its oppression under a semi-feudal and colonial society dominated by foreign imperialism. We need only look at the achievements of the PRC since 1949 to see what socialism has meant to the Chinese people: full employment, elimination of mass starvation, no opium problem, full equality and respect among all nationalities; and advances in all spheres of society.

The Chinese people, under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, have transformed their society into one run by and for working people. The current mass struggle against the "Gang of Four", who advocated counter-revolutionary ideas against the interests of the people, is a part of the ongoing class struggle in China to build socialism. We should learn from China's stand in the world too. Her stand has been a correct and just one, consistently supporting the struggles of oppressed peoples & exposing the treacherous schemes of the 2 superpowers, the US and Soviet Social Imperialism.

Even with more than 95 countries in the world with normalized relations with the PRC, the US government continues to recognize the KMT as the "official" representative of the Chinese people. Forced by international and domestic pressure, Nixon went to China in 1972 and signed the historic Shanghai Communique. This communique provided the guidelines and basis for the development of normal US-China relations. The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence put forward by China for establishment of state to state relations are; mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in the internal affairs of each other's country, equality & mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. These principles were agreed to by the U.S.

With the approaching 5th anniversary of the signing of the Shanghai Communique, we still see that it has not been implemented, and the U.S. government still has not recognized the PRC. We in the ASU join with other progressive groups and individuals all over the U.S. in demanding the immediate normalization of US-China relations.

We demand that the U.S. cease recognition of the KMT, remove all military forces and installations from Taiwan, cancel the Mutual Defense Treaty with Chiang Clique, recognize the PRC and implement the Shanghai Communique.

Once normalization is established, the possibilities of more visits to the PRC without government harassment can become a reality. Increased contact between our two peoples and the flow of information will increase our opportunities to learn about China's socialist society. Normalization of relations will also affect those Chinese in the U.S. whose citizenship status has remained in limbo with US non-recognition of their motherland.

With this current campaign to demand normalization, we in the ASU always keep in mind that it will only be through mass pressure and the demands of the people that will make normalization of relations a reality. As students, we play an important role in this movement. China also offers us particular lessons, such as the educational system and the role of students in making change. We must continue to learn from China, and intensify our efforts to become involed in this important issue.



(cont. from page 1)

ters have been able to defeat eviction attempts each and every time!

Recently the Asian Student Union along with many progressive and revolutionary forces, participated in rallies and demonstrations demanding that the eviction orders be withdrawn.

In December, through pressure from tenants & supporters, the City government was forced to allocate funds to the Housing Authority to purchase the Hotel through the process of "Eminent Domain".

"Eminent Domain" is a legal term which means that the government can force certain property owners to sell their property. Power to do this comes from the Housing Act which the Federal Government passed after World War 2. Because of the mass support for the I-Hotel, the tenants have been able to force the City government to take up the question of "Eminent Domain" for the tenants' interests. In this way, the masses are demanding that the City buy the Hotel from Four Seas Corp., and maintain it as low cost housing. But within the struggle for the "Eminent Domain" plan, the City government proposes that the tenants "buy back" the Hotel for an estimated \$1.3 million dollars. These tenants are elderly retired people who cannot acquire such large sums of money, and takes away the responsibility of the government to provide low-cost housing.

The plan of the liberal politicians like Hongisto and Moscone is to raise the "buy back" money through the conversion of the basement storefronts of the Hotel into more profitable capitalist enterprises. This plan undermines the tenants' interests since it will put the burden of paying for low-cost housing on the tenants and at the same time, splitting the upstairs and downstairs tenants. ASU and supporters of the I-Hotel struggle demand that the City government purchase I-Hotel and permanently maintain it as low-cost housing for our historic community.

But the Housing Authority stalled on implementing Eminent Domain while the City government and courts prepared to carry out the evictions. The Sheriff's department came not just once, but twice to post eviction notices on the entire hotel. Because of the mobilization of tenants and supporters the Sheriff was prevented from posting all the notices at once. The first set of eviction notices covered the small businesses and community organization on the downstairs of the Hotel. The second set covered the residents of the Hotel.

At 5:00 PM, January 12, the first set of eviction notices would have taken effect. This meant that the tenants would have been forcefully evicted anytime after 5:00PM. But at 4:00, only an hour before the evictions would have taken place, tenants and supporters held a demonstration in front of the Hotel. Over 2,500 people showed their support at this demonstration and demanded evictions not take place.

At 5PM, January 16, the second set of eviction notices would have taken effect. This meant that the entire Hotel was subject to forced evictions. Again, the tenants & supporters held a demonstration in front of the Hotel in support of the right of tenants & progressive organizations to stay. This time, 5,000 people joined together & participated in picket lines that covered an entire city block. The mass sentiment against evictions was clearly expressed as tenants & supporters continued the demonstration and rally into the night. Because of the importance of mass support and mobilization by the people, Judge Ira Brown issued a stay of eviction on the I-Hotel on January 17th. This meant that the evictions were temporarily stopped while the proceedings for Eminent Domain were in progress, till March 4th.

ASU and supporters of the I-Hotel struggle demand that the City government purchase the I-Hotel and permanently maintain it as low cost housing for our historic community. ASU will undoubtedly continue the struggle with I-Hotel until complete victory has been won and another blow against national oppression has been made. Only through relying on the masses & mobilizing the masses has this struggle been a success, and that a stay of eviction was won.

The ASU would like to encourage support in the struggle for I-Hotel and other struggles against national oppression. For information, contact us in our office-SU Building basement, Room 137, or call ext. 1929.

**"100 years of oppression,
we demand our rights!
8 years of evictions,
we demand our rights!"**

CPA Celebrates 5th Anniversary

The Chinese Progressive Association, a community organization in SF Chinatown, celebrated the fourth anniversary of its founding on December 26, 1976.

During its four year history, CPA has waged a persistent struggle to bring fundamental change for the Chinese community. Some of the issues & events CPA sponsored or participated in for 1976 are; a memorial commemoration for the late Premier Chou En-Lai, a New Year's celebration, an International Women's Day program, a commemoration of China's historic May 4th Movement in 1919, an International Worker's Day program, a memorial meeting commemorating the passing of Chairman Mao Tsetung, and a march and rally demanding that the US normalize diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. Along with support of the International Hotel and CANE struggles, CPA has also supported the unionization struggle of the Mandarin Restaurant workers and other fights by oppressed nationalities.

In expression of our support and unity with CPA, an ASU speaker delivered a solidarity speech prepared by the SF, UCB and Laney ASU's on the night of the anniversary celebration.

During 1976, CPA advanced in the face of opposition by the local Kuo-mingtang reactionaries (KMT) in Chinatown as well as by factionalists within CPA's own ranks. Struggling for the interests of the organization, they were able to deepen their unity, and expose the plans of a few to split the organization and ally with reformists, reactionaries and other exploiters of the community.

This struggle was summed up in the keynote speech delivered by CPA at the celebration:

"At the beginning of the year, certain steering committee members, making use of their positions as CPA officers, started to clique together to hold back our work. Later, they engineered their own gang inside and outside of CPA which under the guise of 'self-criticism', fabricated rumors and slanders about CPA and tried to split the organization.

..."This clique eventually went against the by-laws and conspired to tear CPA down and consolidate their own group. Their scheme was totally exposed under the sharp eye of the CPA membership who finally at the critical point, having accumulated evidence against them, threw the 3 ring leaders of this clique out of CPA! Indeed they lifted a stone only to drop it on their own feet."



The struggle within CPA has great lessons for us students and as organizers. We should never forget that only through struggle can an organization advance and only by being upfront and principled can we work in the interests of the people. This point was stressed in the speech delivered by the ASU's in commenting on the year 1976, a most important year of advances for CPA and the Chinese community.

Finally, at the close of the program, the ASU and other progressive organizations joined in group singing and received certificates for participating in CPA's first annual Ping Pong Tournament. We in the ASU wish the Chinese Progressive Association another glorious year in making greater advances in the course of persistent struggle!

(Con't from page 2)

Other plans we have for the spring semester include, study sessions on important topics facing Asian students, a Ping Pong Tournament, a possible concentration camp forum, general meetings, and publishing future issues of the newsletter. Members of the ASU will also be taking Asian Studies classes in order to work with students and contribute to the direction of Asian Studies.

We will be holding orientation meetings in our office on February 9 and 10 for all interested students. We hope you can come, contribute your ideas and experiences, and help in whatever ways you can! Stop by our office in the Student Union Bldg, basement, Room 137, or phone ext. 1929.

**Unite to fight the
oppression of
Asian people!**

IMPRESSIONS



To a sister, In Struggle

Hey, where you are? Where you are...
We haven't seen you in a LONG time
Hear you been going through some heavy changes
...like resolving some contradictions
...like full-time class struggle
How you talked of your dreams lately

"I'm beginning to dream in class struggle"
that's what you said

"I'm beginning to DREAM in class struggle"

Well, sister, it ain't no dream
You're dealing with the real thing...and it's ugly
But that ain't no reason for you to stop
Nothing's going to change if you give up now

It ain't easy
You gotta keep on struggling
You gotta hold your line
But you're not alone--we're all in this together

Shout for help if you need us
What the hell, give us a shout anyway!

We miss ya (on the side!)
We miss those sarcastic remarks
and those snide jokes with the

"I'm jiving", turkey! smile
You're on your own, but we're still with you in spirit

People will try to confuse you
but you know what's correct,

YOU KNOW what is correct

We all have confidence..you'll fly through
Keep on struggling sister, keep on struggling

COME TO OUR ORIENTATION MEETINGS!

wed. feb. 9
thurs. feb. 10

12:00 SU BLDG;
ROOM 137



calendar

- January 27- First Day of School!
Sund
- January 30- ASU General Meeting, off-campus
Potluck 6:00
- February 3- Joint ASU meeting with UCB &
Laney ASU's, on the question
of Normalization of US-China
relations & Pro-China work.
In the East Bay, contact us
for a ride. 6:00 Potluck
- February 9 ASU Orientation Meetings
& 10- 12:00, in Room 137 SU Bldg.
- February 28- Rally in front of Federal Bldg.
to demand immediate normalization
of US-China relations. Sponsored
by Coalition to demand normaliza-
tion of US-China Relations.
12:00-2:00, with short program
Carpools available with ASU

Principles of unity:

From our work in the past semester, we gained a clearer understanding of the purpose and direction of our organization. As a result, we saw the need to re-evaluate and rewrite our principles of unity. Principles of unity serve to guide our work and direction. The following are our newly formulated principles:

- 1) To promote the commitment of students to transform society.
- 2) To build unity among Asian students in light of our common oppression.
a) To fight racism and inequality which are inherent in the American political and economic system.
b) To build the Asian Student Movement as an integral part of the Asian and Progressive Movements.

special thanks;

We would like to thank the Asian Student Union at UC Berkeley for the use of printing facilities, the Chinese Progressive Association, the Committee Against Nihonmachi Eviction, and individuals who helped us with the production of this issue of Asian Student Voice.

ASU Tee-shirts

Get Your ASU Tee-shirt now!
In assorted colors, with silkscreened slogan: Unite To Fight the Oppression Of Asian People! Only \$3.50. In the ASU Office.