'Chinese Taipei' stance 'Ah Q'-like

Written by Lin Kien-tsu [] [] Wednesday, 15 June 2016 08:06

Premier Lin Chuan (\square \square) said not long ago: "I believe that the title 'Chinese Taipei' means the Republic of China [ROC] ... The meaning behind that title is the ROC."

Lin's claim reminds me of "Ah Q" (\square Q), a popular character created by Chinese writer Lu Xun (\square) in his 1921 book The True Story of Ah Q (\square Q \square).

When Ah Q lost a fight and was beaten up, he simply told himself: "This was like a son beating up his own father, completely unreasonable," in an attempt to comfort himself and convince himself that he had won a moral victory.

Asked about the WHA meeting last month, Minister of Foreign Affairs David Lee (□□□) said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had delivered a letter to the WHO to "register our concern" over the mention of the "one China" principle in the WHA's invitation letter. Lee said this phrase means to file a "protest."

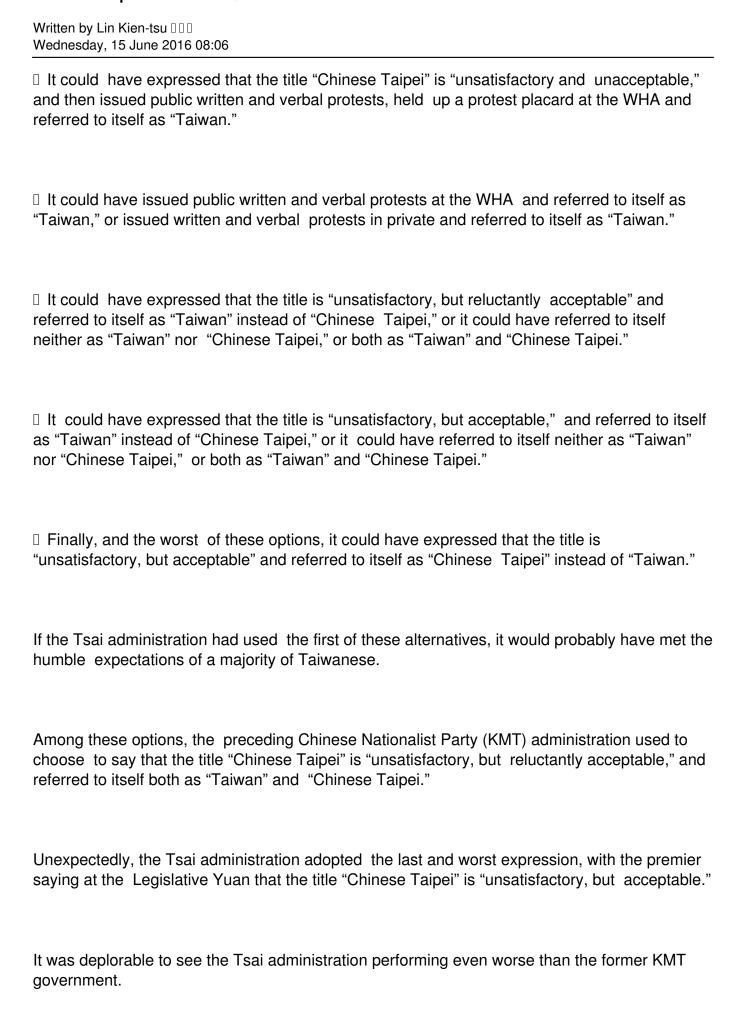
That was yet another expression of the Ah Q spirit. A concern is a concern; a protest is a protest. Registering a concern definitely does not mean making a protest.

President Tsai Ing-wen (DDD) even praised Minister of Health and Welfare Lin Tzou-yien's (DDD) performance at the WHA, saying the national title of Taiwan had not been belittled during the meeting.

It is evident that such Ah Q-style self-comforting is the unanimous view and reaction of the Presidential Office, the Cabinet and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In response to the use of the title "Chinese Taipei" for Taiwan, the government could have used dozens of ways to show its concern or protest in public or in private, such as:

'Chinese Taipei' stance 'Ah Q'-like



'Chinese Taipei' stance 'Ah Q'-like

Written by Lin Kien-tsu [] [] Wednesday, 15 June 2016 08:06

Furthermore, in the past, the term "Chinese Taipei" was only used as the title of the Taiwanese delegation at the WHA, but the minister of health and welfare urged the WHO to "support the 23 million citizens of Chinese Taipei" during his speech at the WHA, thus using the term to refer to all Taiwanese.

Taiwanese are strongly opposed to Taiwan calling itself Chinese Taipei. If Taiwan and China had really reached a prior agreement that the delegation should use "Chinese Taipei" to refer to Taiwan at the WHA, and that "the earth would move and mountains would shake" if it did not, then the Tsai administration needs to explain this to the Taiwanese public.

However, if it was possible for Taiwan to have avoided using the title "Chinese Taipei," then it was the Tsai administration's fault, and it should apologize to all Taiwanese.

It must stop acting like Ah Q. It may be able to deceive itself, but it will not be able to deceive the public and it may end up losing the public's trust.

Lin Kien-tsu is a former director of Tamkang University's Department of International Business.

Translated by Eddy Chang

Source: Taipei Times - Editorials 2016/06/15