



# International Taekwon-Do Federation

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Park Jung Tae - Secretary General of ITF  
Comments on Taekwon-Do  
November 19th. 1986

As Secretary General of the International Taekwon-Do Federation, I would like to apologize for the sudden cancellation of the Vth. World Taekwon-Do Championships that were to be held in Malaysia this December. The government of South Korea, the K.C.I.A. and the W.T.F. should also apologize to the millions of practitioners around the world, for the part they played in this cancellation. It is sad when a government and politicians interfere with the advancement of a sport and is able to use their power to influence and pressure innocent practitioners. It really wasn't fair that the Taekwon-Do sportsmen and sportswomen be subjected to this kind of political pressure and abuse. What has been gained by this malicious act?

When our Vice President and Technical Committee Chairman visited Malaysia in June 1986 to finalize the last details of the championship, they met with the Prime Minister's Political Secretary. At that time, the government of Malaysia had approved the Vth World Taekwon-Do Championships. Then, in October of 1986, General Choi Hong Hi, founder of Taekwon-Do and myself held a seminar in Malaysia. The Malaysian Tournament Organizing Committee has already raised U.S.\$ 250.000 and everything was running smoothly. The net proceeds of this championship were to be donated to the handicapped and the government of Malaysia was happy to hear this news. The World Taekwon-Do Federation, which is run mostly by politicians rather than sports persons, weren't very happy to have such an event take place. The K.C.I.A., in fact, approached the Tournament Director in Malaysia and pressured him to cancel the championship. When this didn't work, the pressure was put on the Malaysian Government. Remember, South Korea and Malaysia have a very good relationship and this kind of event was not going to stand in their way. Doesn't it make you want to ask questions? For example, why does South Korea want politics involved in Taekwon-Do when so many other countries just want to let their sportsmen and sportswomen train and enjoy the sport. We might also ask the W.T.F. why they were afraid to let this championship take place. Are they worried that the world will finally find out the truth about Taekwon-Do?

Everyone knows that Taekwon-Do is the national sport of Korea and was founded by General Choi Hong Hi, who is President of the International Taekwon-Do Federation. I.T.F. was formed in Seoul, Korea on March 22, 1966, together with nine other countries. At that time the South Korean Taekwon-Do association was under the banner of I.T.F. By 1970 there were over fifty countries affiliated with the I.T.F. At that time all the Master Instructors of I.T.F. were Korean and many travelled to these countries to teach, demonstrate, and promote Taekwon-Do. When General Choi left Korea in 1972, due to political problems with the government, the Government of South Korea formed another Taekwon-Do organisation in 1973, called the World Taekwon-Do Federation, in an effort to destroy the I.T.F. Because of political pressure, many of the Master Instructors left the I.T.F. to join ranks with the W.T.F. How would you react if the government of your country threatened to label you as an "outcast" and would not let you return to your country or even let your family leave the country?

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The government /

Park Jung Tae - Secretary General of ITF  
Comments on Taekwon-Do cont'd

The government of South Korea has spent over four billion dollars in their efforts to destroy the I.T.F. but the truth is that the I.T.F. is the traditional and original Taekwon-Do and this fact can never be changed. At present eighty-five countries are affiliated with the I.T.F. The W.T.F., in trying to destroy the I.T.F., are destroying themselves. The future of Taekwon-Do lies in the merging of the two Federations and until the W.T.F. faces up to this fact there will be no authentic Taekwon-Do. Taekwon-Do belongs to the millions of practitioners training under the banner of Taekwon-Do, whether it be the World Taekwon-Do Federation or the International Taekwon-Do Federation. The I.T.F. is willing to negotiate but the W.T.F. has put on earmuffs and blindfolds. There is an old saying, "You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time". I think this saying holds true for Taekwon-Do. The rapid growth of Taekwon-Do around the world has been astronomical but people are not aware of the politics involved. Taekwon-Do practitioners don't want to get mixed up in the political aspect of this sport. They just want to train, compete and be proud of their martial art.

It is common knowledge that the W.T.F. is holding a demonstration game at the 1988 Summer Olympics held in Seoul, Korea. Again, the South Korean government has used their political power and privileged situation to accomplish this event. The International Olympic Committee has realized the controversial situation between the W.T.F. and the I.T.F. and have already stated that unless the two Federations merge, Taekwon-Do will never be an olympic sport. The I.T.F.'s ultimate goal is to have "One Taekwon-Do" and be an olympic sport. Do you realize that if both Federations merge before 1990, there is a possibility that Taekwon-Do could be accepted and included in the 1996 Olympics. This would be the first time in the history of an Olympic sport that the founder of the sport, namely Gen. Choi Hong Hi would be alive. The publicity would have a staggering effect on the future development of Taekwon-Do around the world. I think it's time for the W.T.F. to remove their earmuffs and blindfolds and face the facts. Only then will this serious problem be resolved.

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Giving Interviews

It is a sad fact that some martial art magazine reports are not written fairly, this also applies to newspaper reports. In order to ensure that you are not misquoted you are advised to take the following precautions:

1. Record any interviews on a tape if possible.
2. Get or give a written copy of what you are saying.
3. Ask to be permitted to read the proposed article before publication, where possible.

Item 1. is likely to be the best precaution to take.

WTF Propaganda

You will all be aware that the WTF are worried about the fact that the ITF are so strong and thereby causing them problems. The WTF have undertaken a really low series of actions in which they accuse the ITF of being international terrorists and a front for communism. Where this has happened we are taking legal action and you are asked to report any instances of such adverse publicity to the HQ in Vienna.

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Survey of Members /

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We wish to update our records to show the actual position of numbers of black/coloured belt members and also the location of all schools of Taekwon-Do. Please be kind enough to give us the following details:

1. Name of School with address and Instructor's name and degree.
2. Names and degree held of all black belts in the school.
3. Number of coloured belts in the school.

This is important and we ask all National Governing Bodies to ensure that we get these details.

Certificates

The staff at the HQ do their best to ensure that certificates are something to be proud of. However dealing with so many different nationalities it is difficult for us to know how to pronounce all of the names and sometimes how it should be written. We ask that all applications are typed where possible and where not possible that they are written in BLOCK LETTERS. When the name is written in Korean characters it is written phonetically (or how it sounds). Because even English is pronounced differently by different people we request that anyone who writes the Korean language should also write the Korean characters for the name on the form. This would ensure the local sounding of the name would be correct.

ITF Flag

This flag has been manufactured for your benefit and it is actually part of the rules that you display it and it would certainly enhance your training area and any championship or demonstration area. It is 0.9144 m x 0.6096 m in size and has the ITF 'Turtle' in full colour on a white background. The space for the plaque number is left blank for you to put your own plaque number on it. The flag is available now and you should order it from the ITF HQ enclosing international money order for \$ 130.00 (US).

IIIrd. International Instructor/Umpire Course in Vienna

This will take place from 9th. to 21st. March in this year 1987. Applications giving name, degree and enclosing fee of \$ 200.00 (USD) should be sent to this HQ now.

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