

## **In the West, Chinese Student Groups Push the Party Line; act as a front group for Communist China**

### **Parts I and II**

Epoch Times,  
28 Jan 2010

As the U.S.-based Shen Yun Performing Arts Company began its 2010 world tour from the U.S., various cities have begun to witness the spread of the Chinese regime's propaganda targeting the group. The regime has been utilizing university connections as one of its primary resources for defaming the performing arts company. Just prior to a Shen Yun performance at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia earlier this month, Mr. Sun, an alumnus of the University of Pennsylvania in the same city, sent an email through the CSSA (Chinese Student and Scholars Association) mailing list. It contained information about the group's upcoming performances. Mail recipients noted that within minutes of the posting, a person with the email address weihong311@hotmail.com ("wei hong" literally means "red guard") replied to the list, with articles defaming Shen Yun. The articles were directly copied from the Chinese Consulate's Web site, defaming Shen Yun and urging recipients not to attend. The person had opted not to use a university email address, and no such person was found to have an affiliation with the school.

The Chinese Student and Scholars Association at Penn (CSSAP) is one of the schools in the CSSA network whose head sponsor is the Chinese Consulate General of New York. This connection is listed on its Web site, which posts as its motto the words of Mao Zedong: "Serve the People." Chinese Consulates have also sent out messages through the CSSA system, saying that if overseas Chinese view Shen Yun performances, they will have trouble returning to China . . .

. . . According to an investigative report on the Chinese regime's control of overseas Chinese by the World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong: "At present, 90 percent of the 30 million overseas Chinese immigrants and their descendants have adopted citizenships from their residing countries (are foreign national Chinese). But the Chinese Communist regime never let go of its grip to control these Chinese immigrants, or ways to transform their ideology. They exploit and utilize them to expand the Chinese Communist sphere of influence in international society."

The report also stated, "Under the leadership of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council and with the cooperation of the Department of Consular Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the regime has established a Chinese immigrant political strategy and procedures that specifically targeted the overseas Chinese. They have conducted systematic, long-term deceptive propaganda and indoctrination of Chinese communist ideological concepts.

The CSSA (Chinese Student and Scholar Association) is an international organization with chapters on campuses of higher education. CSSA chapters usually maintain a close association with Chinese consulates. There are at least 109 affiliate CSSA groups across the U.S. "How China's Diplomatic Missions Control and Use Overseas Chinese Students" reports on how the regime utilizes students to disseminate information worldwide. The article begins with a blog from a Chinese student, who describes the CSSA in this way: "It is said that each CSSA chapter is a non-political organization, but each is in fact very much politically oriented, and necessarily so. The Consulate provides funding and resources to each CSSA, which amounts to tremendous assistance, for this resolves all financial worries the student organization might otherwise have. However, our sense is that the Consulate exercises influence in still other, more significant, manners."

On the matter of those who work to further the regime's goals abroad, Mr. David W. Szady, former Counterintelligence Executive for the FBI, had this to say: "There are 150,000 students from China. Some of those are sent here to work their way up into the corporations..." He also said, "We now see almost all of the adversaries [of] the Chinese being a classic example, of using students, delegations, researchers, visitors and false-front companies." . . . .

PRC-crest In the West, Chinese Student Groups Push the Party Line: Part I – Chinese students group

acting as fronts for Chinese Communist Party (Epoch Times, 27 Jan 10)

With China's reform and opening up, thousands of students have streamed overseas to study at Western universities. Evidence and suspicion has been growing, however, that while they are in the West, many have not adopted Western values, and are instead acting as front groups that further the interests of the Chinese Communist Party abroad. While the groups carry out typical student association type functions, evidence suggests that a clandestine aspect of their duties includes acting as subordinates to local Chinese consulates.

"Provisional Regulations Regarding Work on Overseas Students," a document published by China's State Education Commission, states that doing a "good job" with overseas students is an important task for Chinese embassies and consulates. This equates to managing the activities of overseas students while they are abroad—in ways that few would suspect. . . .

. . . Former agents of Chinese intelligence services have said that CSSA members do the sort of work that consulates are unable to. On record, there are at least 109 CSSA groups in the United States. Much like the role played by the state-run Xinhua News Agency in mainland China, student and scholar associations monitor overseas Chinese abroad and report back on developments; at the same time they promote CCP propaganda in their overseas countries, and where necessary, sow seeds of dissent.

In more extreme cases, Chinese agents have stolen information from the intelligence communities of other countries. The CCP is known to keep close tabs on the CSSA members it utilizes. Chinese Consulates hold regular meetings to discuss overseas Chinese they have concerns about. CSSA contacts and those from other groups dispatched by the consulates are required to report back to them once a month.

A Chinese agent in Belgium defected to the West in 2005, testifying that the CSSA system is in essence the "front organization" of an espionage network that for two years had been monitored by the Center for Strategic Intelligence and Security in Europe. The secret agent was a member of the Louvain University CSSA in Belgium. He had studied and worked in Europe for ten years. He reported to the Belgian government detailed espionage activities of hundreds of Chinese agents in the European business community. He said the Chinese spy network that spans all of Europe utilizes the CSSA infrastructure as a cover. Its main tasks focus on securing industrial and economic intelligence, as well as collecting information on dissidents. Reporting is then made to Beijing and the CCP's Ministry of Public Security.

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At least in the U.S., agents abroad are required to be legally registered, and must comply with the dictates of U.S. law, according to the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA), which came into force in 1938. According to a FAQ on the act, the law was designed to "ensure the U.S. Government and the people are informed of the source of information (propaganda) and the identity of persons attempting to influence U.S. public opinion, policy, and laws."

In an interview with The Epoch Times, FBI Philadelphia special agent and media spokesperson Dr. J.J. Klaver said, "The Act requires every agent of a foreign principal . . . to register with the Department of Justice within ten days of agreeing to become an agent and before performing any activities for the foreign principal."

Non-compliance with FARA can result in up to a ten-year prison sentence. However, students belonging to student associations who conduct activities on behalf of the CCP have gone largely unchecked by hosting governments. There are few cases of Chinese being charged in violation of FARA.

Li Jianzhong, former president of the Caltech Chinese Association in 1996, came close. While in college he agreed to become a student representative for the Chinese Consulate, and through the consulate's connections got to know the overseas Chinese community and business leaders in Los Angeles. He arranged and organized many activities for the consulate, and found that he was encouraged to give local pro-China democracy groups a hard time. Later he was contacted by the FBI in connection with his activities. He was not charged for violating FARA.

Another case is You Yunqing, who was president of the University of Minnesota (UM) Chinese Students Association in 2002. During his one-year term, Cheng Jiakai, the Chinese Consulate Consul in Chicago, transferred \$3,000 to Mr. You's personal account. The student later transferred the money to the student association's account.

"The so-called activity funds from the Consulate are not given to the student association, but to its president, in secret," Mr. You said. "This is a great inducement to the association president."

Around the 2004 New Year, the student association president of UM resigned. His reason: he was not willing to follow the Chinese Embassy's directive to suppress Falun Gong abroad.

For the appointing of a new president Jiang Bo, the Secretary General of the China Education Association for International Exchange, a government-operated non-governmental organization controlled by China's Ministry of Education, went to UM in person. Consul Cheng personally phoned several of the vice presidents, telling them that Jiang would invite them to dinner.

After dinner, Jiang recorded each student's name, school, and the addresses of their parents. Former agents of Chinese intelligence services have said that CSSA members do the sort of work that consulates are unable to.

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The CCP systematically interferes with groups abroad when such groups undermine, deliberately or not, its domestic political objectives. Through the CSSA international framework, the regime is able to utilize email lists and personal contacts as its means.

One such group targeted by the CCP is the Shen Yun Performing Arts company, which tours internationally. The group promotes a revival of traditional Chinese culture and values, and depicts scenes of Chinese people standing up to end the persecution of Falun Gong in China—a highly sensitive subject to Chinese authorities.

Ms. Chen Ying, the former wife of a staff member of the Chinese Embassy in France, said that when important events are about to take place, diplomats of the education division of the Chinese Embassy would “convey it to the backbone of overseas student associations, who would then convey [information] to all relevant students.” Activities would then be arranged in compliance with the Embassy’s needs.

The CCP-run New York University Chinese Culture Club (NYUCCC) launched a petition in 2007 on its website to protest the International Classical Chinese Dance Competition organized by New Tang Dynasty Television, a New York-based television station that was also founded by Falun Gong practitioners, sponsors Shen Yun, and reports on human rights abuses in China.

A short time later, the Columbia University CSSA uploaded an open letter supporting NYUCCC’s actions, and later on the same day posted nine articles slandering Falun Gong on its website. All of the articles had links to the Chinese Embassy’s website. CUCSSA has three consultants, two of whom are from the office of the Chinese Consulate General in New York. The Chinese Student and Scholars Association at Penn stated its motto on its website—a famous quote of Chairman Mao “For People We Serve”. (Serve the People website)

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That the CCP goes to such lengths to try to undermine Shen Yun performances some feel, is a reflection of the group’s significance. As one Chinese student from the University of Pennsylvania put it, “If the Chinese regime dislikes you, you must be right, or must be real good.”

Dr. J.J. Klaver is a special agent and media spokesperson For the FBI in Philadelphia. When asked about U.S. laws regarding individuals spreading propaganda for a foreign government, Klaver pointed out the FARA law, which stands for Foreign Agents Registration Act. It ensures the “U.S. Government and the people are informed of the source of information (propaganda) and the identity of persons attempting to influence U.S. public opinion, policy, and laws,” according to an online FAQ.

The Act requires every agent of a "foreign principal," meaning government or related group, to register with the Department of Justice within ten days of agreeing to become an agent, and before performing any activities for the foreign entity.

The Act also requires that propaganda be labeled with a conspicuous statement, that the information is disseminated by the agents on behalf of the foreign principal. Klaver continued, "The agent must provide copies of such materials to the Attorney General." Non-compliance with the act comes with a fine or up to 10 years imprisonment, Klaver said.

The Chinese Consulate General in New York is listed as lead sponsor on the Web site of the Chinese Student and Scholars Association at Penn (CSSAP). (CSSAP website)  
FARA was enacted in 1938, to address Congressional concerns regarding the large number of German propaganda agents working in the U.S. prior to WWII.

According to court-filed reports, there are two Chinese individuals on record charged with FARA offenses. One is Chi Mak, a China-born naturalized U.S. citizen, who worked as an engineer for the California-based defense contractor, Power Paragon. Mak was sentenced to a term of 24 years and 5 months in 2007, for exporting sensitive defense technology to the Chinese regime.

Another instance is the prominent case of Dongfan "Greg" Chung, also a China-born naturalized U.S. citizen. Chung worked as an aerospace engineer at the Boeing plant in Huntington Beach, California. He was convicted in the first-ever trial violating the Economic Espionage Act, in 2009. He was found to be guilty of acting as a foreign agent in violation of the Economic Espionage Act, along with additional charges.

The FARA Semi-Annual Report to the U.S. Congress (ending date: Dec. 31, 2008) indicated that there were 11 Chinese government agents registered with the Department of Justice. Among those registered are correspondents of the China Daily Overseas Edition and People's Daily Overseas Edition. (In China, the two newspapers are commonly referred to as "The Party's mouthpiece.")

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of those are sent here to work their way up into the corporations...” He also said, “We now see almost all of the adversaries [of] the Chinese being a classic example, of using students, delegations, researchers, visitors ... and false-front companies.”

Szady’s statements drew sharp criticism and protests from Chinese regime.

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A Penn Chinese student, who asked not to be identified, spoke about the regime’s influence here. “I don’t feel comfortable with this—it feels like living in the shadow of ‘Red China.’ People in China are abandoning communism at 50,000 a day, and we are still living under the communist influence here in the U.S.

“I want to know who they are, acting as Chinese government’s ears and eyes, throat and tongues in my university,” the student said.

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<http://cicentre.net/wordpress/index.php/2010/01/29/in-the-west-chinese-student-groups-push-the-party-line-act-as-a-front-group-for-communist-china/>