

ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF LETTER FROM:

Gun Den, Cultural Attaché

Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Ukraine

CHINESE EMBASSY IN THE UKRAINE

To MaGiKa-Film Company Director

Dear Gennadi;

First of all, let me express my gratitude for your detailed account of the Documentary Cinema Days that were celebrated in Kiev in early April.

To the best of our knowledge, organizers of the Ukrainian Context Cinema Festival presented to Ukrainian viewers two films treating the subject of human rights in China (*Devotion and Defiance* about the situation in the Chinese Tibet and *Seoul Train* about the problem of illegal North Korean refugees in China).

It is internationally common knowledge that for centuries the above-mentioned Tibetan territories have constituted an integral part of China and currently exist as an administrative district. Numerous historical documents and architectural monuments testify to the truth of these words. Consequently, the statements made by political groups and by an observer of the Ukrainian newspaper *Day (Dien)* to the effect that “...*Devotion and Defiance* produced by Marni Kravitz treats the subject of indigenous population's struggle against communist occupants” sound as outrageous lies.

As for *Seoul Train*, the American production team indulges in wanton accusations, thereby misleading the viewer's opinion. Temporary economic difficulties North Korea currently experiences resulted in an insignificant number of North Koreans (not refugees) illegally crossing the Chinese state border. International experience demonstrates that no government tends to be lenient to illegal immigrants, whereas the Chinese Government acts with maximum restraint and opts for humane approach to the issue. The so-called “underground Seoul Train group” actually goads illegal immigrants into violating effective Chinese legislation, and this is definitely unacceptable from the Chinese Government's viewpoint.

China does not want to cover up her problems or difficulties, including human rights problems. But it is noteworthy that over the last quarter of a century the country has made a tremendous progress towards human rights protection, and the international community is well aware of this fact.

All this considered, please have respect to our opinion and viewpoint and do not circulate the above-mentioned films in Ukrainian regions for the reason that these films distort the human rights situation in China and discredit the country.

We have ample stocks of Russian-language printed matter treating various aspects of contemporary life in China. If you are interested in obtaining some samples, we would be only glad to furnish them the next time you come to Kiev. Also, we are sure that a common language can be found in cinematographic cooperation.

Respectfully yours,
Gun Den, Cultural Attaché