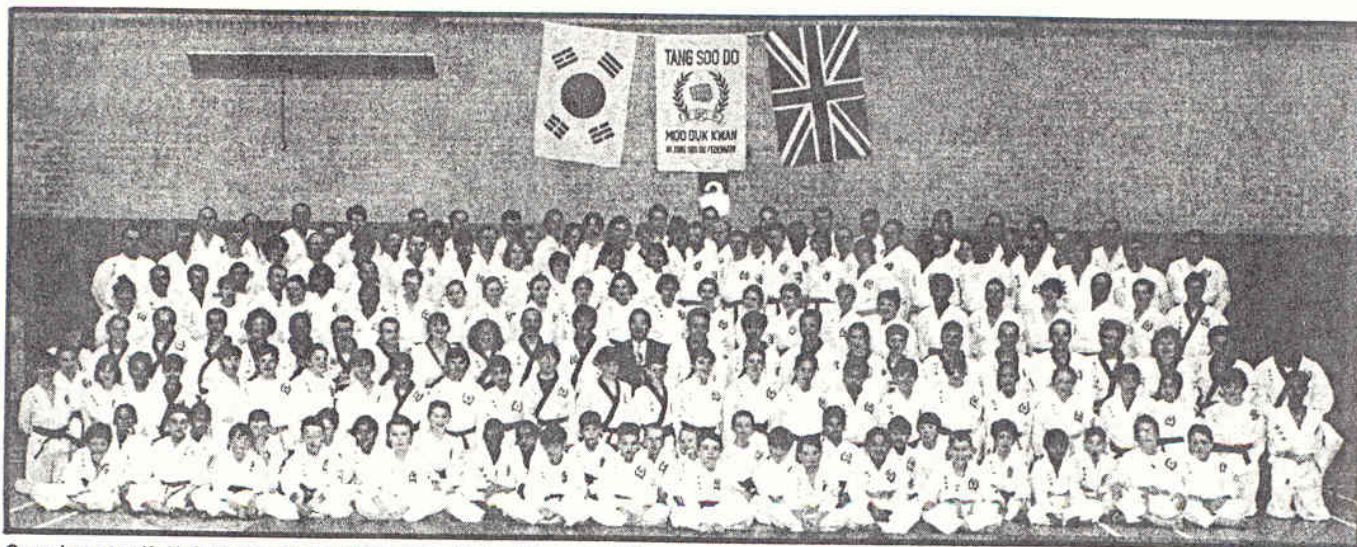


GRANDMASTER KANG UK LEE



INTERNATIONAL TANG SOO DO (MOO DUK KWAN)



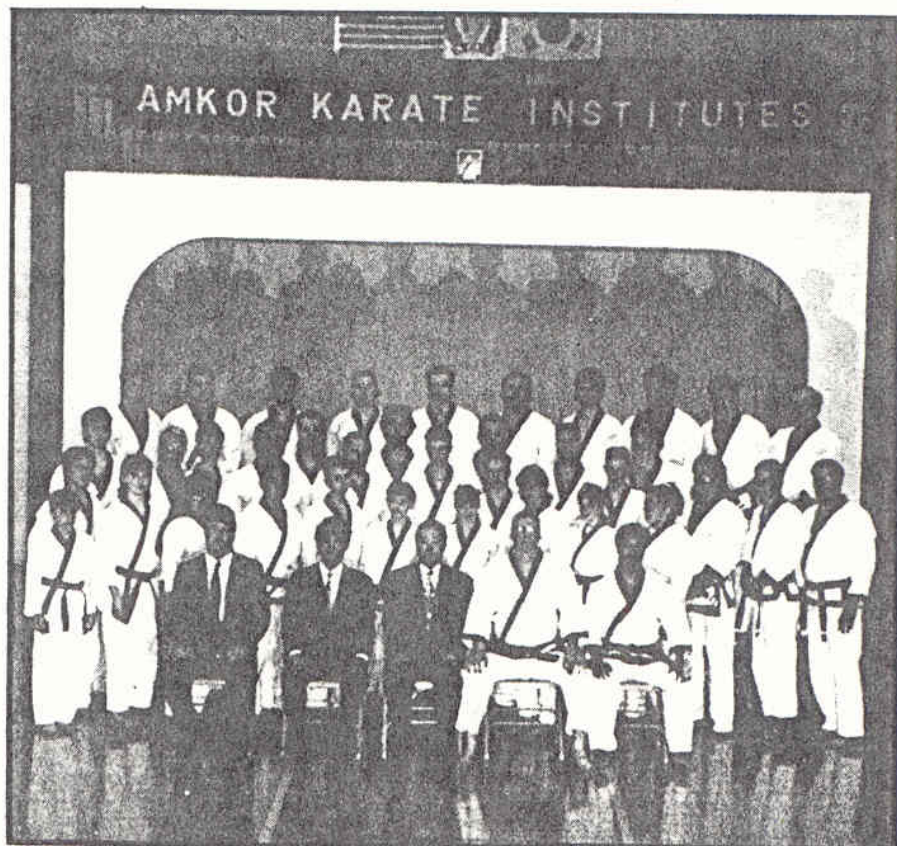
Grandmaster K. U. Lee, founder of Tang Soo Do In UK, seated (in suit) in the middle. On his right is Master Pum Chin, Secretary General of the UK Tang Soo Do Federation, and on his left is the Vice-President, Master R. Woodiwiss. Grandmaster Lee was attending the 10th Region One Tang Soo Do Championships held in Dunstable, Bedfordshire, on April 15, 1993.

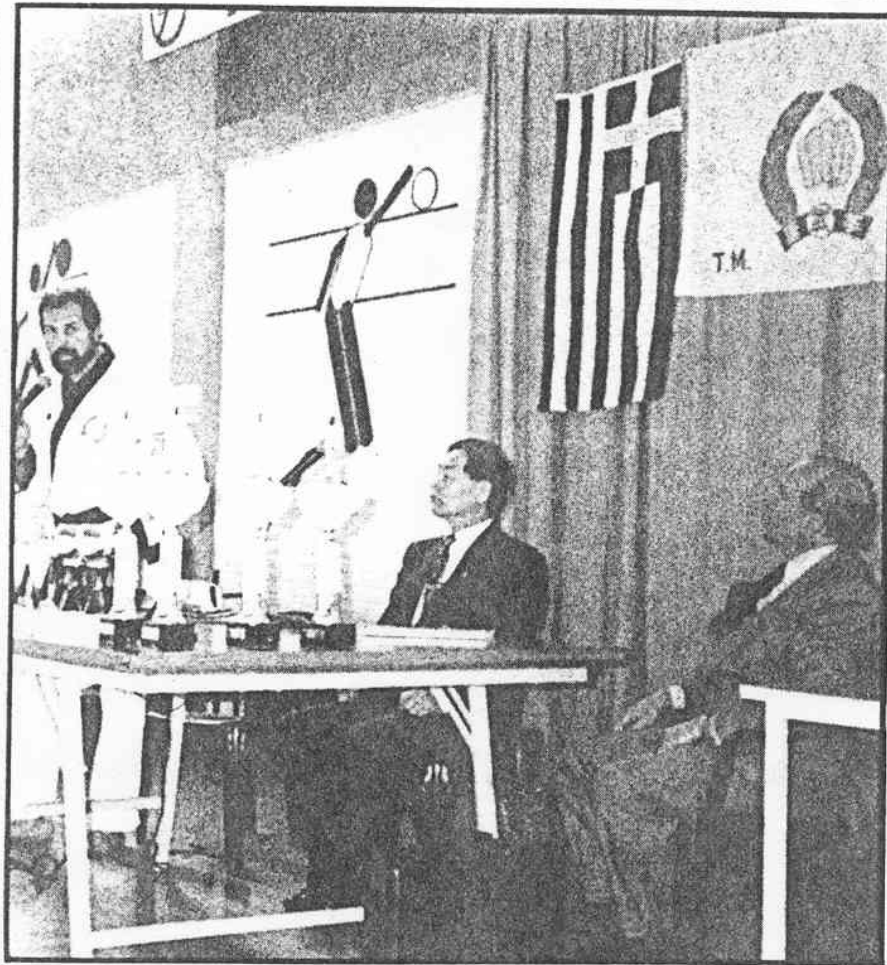
WHEN THE WORDS martial arts and Korea are mentioned most people think of Taekwondo, but Taekwondo is really the baby, age wise, of the Korean martial arts and one of Taekwondo's big brothers is in fact Tang Soo Do that can be said to date back to the 14th century. One of the most senior Masters of Tang Soo Do is based in Hertfordshire and is the President of the International Tang Soo Do (Moo Duk Kwan) Federation — Grandmaster Kang Uk Lee.

Grandmaster Lee started to learn Tang Soo Do in 1950 when he was 13. He started studying it because it was part of gymnasium studies at the military transportation school he attended, and at the time he did not know that it was Tang Soo Do he was learning. The Korean war then stopped the training after just one year, but after the war Grandmaster Lee continued with his studies.

At the end of his high school education in 1956 Grand Master Lee

Grandmaster K. U. Lee paid a visit to America from May 5-10, to conduct Black Belt Grading for an affiliated association in the USA.





Grandmaster K. U. Lee in Greece with the Greek TSD President (left) and Chief Instructor of Greece.

became a civilian Tang Soo Do instructor to the military police in Seoul and at the same time started the Ma Po gymnasium in Seoul. Then, in 1957, he moved on to become the Tang Soo Do instructor at the Korean Air Force Academy in Seoul.

With a change in the military leadership in Korea it was made difficult for Tang Soo Do people. So in June, 1960, the Korean Soo Bahk Do Association was formed by government legislation under the education department. It did not matter to the government what art it was. If it looked like a martial art with punching and kicking it came under the same association.

Due to the problems which had occurred, Grandmaster Lee resigned in 1962 as instructor of the Korean Air Force Academy, which was a very good position, because all the students had done degrees to get into the academy, and it was there that they were trained as fighter pilots and he had enjoyed working there. He then joined the Korean Soo Bahk Kwan headquarters as chief instructor, where he stayed until

1972, when he was invited to Malaysia by the Malaysian Tang Soo Do Federation where he became the chief instructor for Tang Soo Do in South East Asia. He was chief instructor for Brunei, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, etc. After he had been teaching there for a couple of years one of his students came over to England and formed the Watford Tang Soo Do Association, and in 1974 Grandmaster Lee came over as chief instructor.

When Grandmaster Lee arrived in this country no one really knew of Tang Soo Do and so he founded the UK Tang Soo Do Federation and quite a few of his former students from Malaysia came over to train with him. Since he first came over the UK Tang Soo Do Federation has had over 17,000 people train with them and over 1,000 have achieved their black belts in the UK. He has also been to Holland, Greece, Belgium, Germany and Italy to spread Tang Soo Do.

Grandmaster Lee is very satisfied with one thing in his life which is that he has never had any other job apart from being a Tang Soo Do instructor, but he is also very sad about one thing. Only his master, Grandmaster Hwang Kee, who is now 80 years old, is senior to him. Some people, who were senior to him, have retired, until 1989 when a problem occurred. The



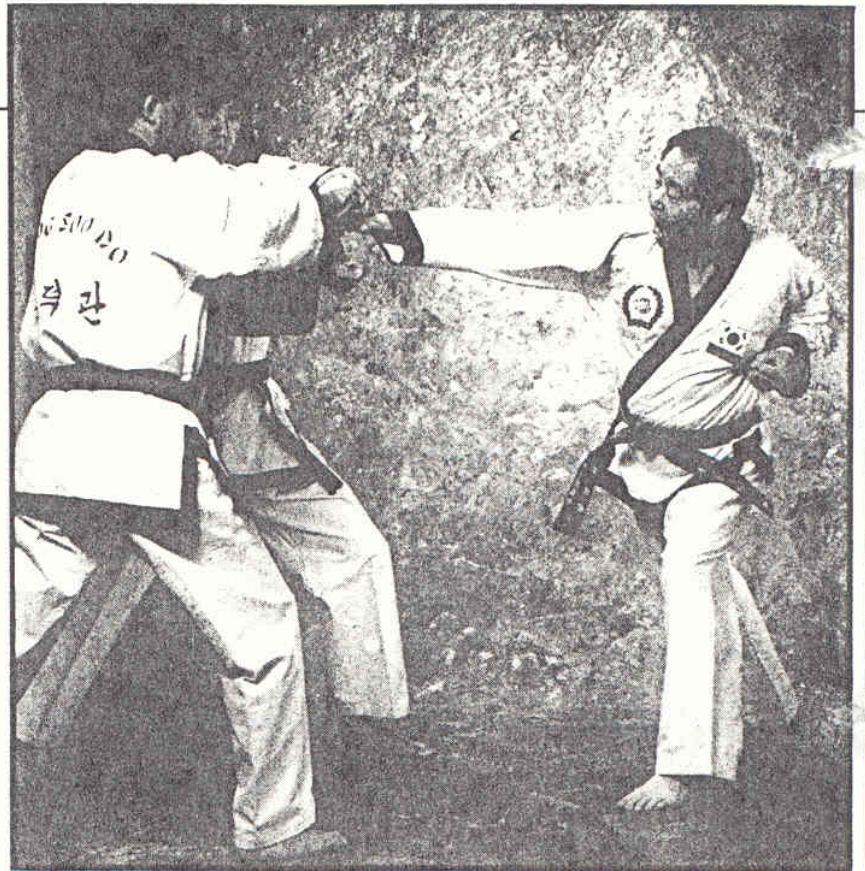
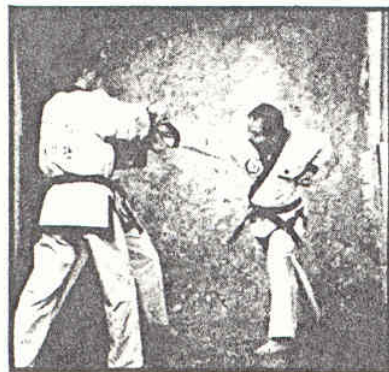
Grandmaster Kang Uk Lee attending the Greek National Championships. On his right is the Mayor of Athens.



teaching of Tang Soo Do around the world was divided up between the Grandmasters son in the USA, Grandmaster Lee in Europe, someone in Asia and someone else in Australia. Although second most senior person, Grandmaster Lee was not bothered about who would be the next head of the world association as his loyalty was to his Grandmaster (it should be pointed out that there can be no dispute over the seniority in Tang Soo Do as since 1945 all the black belts have been registered and all black belt certificates numbered). It was then that things did not run smoothly and after some actions which were not as ethical, or as democratic, as they should have been Grandmaster Lee had to sadly resign from the World body.

It was after these events that he founded the International Tang Soo Do (Moo Duk Kwan) Federation with its headquarters in Watford. Quite a number of foreign Tang Soo Do Associations have joined Grandmaster Lee's new Federation.

The UK Tang Soo Do Federation is recognised by the Sports Council and Grandmaster Lee sees all Tang Soo Do practitioners in this country as his students, as he was the founder of Tang Soo Do in this country. There are some groups outside the federation because of various reasons, but if they at anytime want to go back Grandmaster Lee will welcome them.



BRIEF HISTORY OF TANG SOO DO (SOO BAHK) DO

KOREA has a long history of civilisation. Like all ancient civilisations, it has periodically engaged in military activity. This has led to the building up of a martial tradition extending to now.

During the 4th century AD, wandering monks from China introduced Buddhism to Korea. Some of these were accomplished martial artists, as indeed they had to be for their own safety. There are reliable records of them teaching lay people martial arts.

The Silla Dynasty (AD 668-935) was a period when the martial arts expanded rapidly in Korea. The Kingdom of Silla was one of three Kingdoms in Korea. It occupied the south eastern part of the Korean Peninsula. It was notable for the military prowess of its young warrior class, the Hwa Rang. The five basic principles of Tang Soo Do derive from the principles of these elite warriors.

At the beginning of the Yi Dynasty (AD 1390-1907) the National Martial Arts Manual,

"Moo Yei Do Bo Tong Ji," was published, and the term "Soo Bahk Do" ("way of hand fighting") became widely used. During the occupation of Korea by Japan (1907-1945) the practice of native martial arts was prohibited. This prohibition forced many Korean Soo Bahk Do Masters to emigrate, or to practise secretly.

Following the liberation of Korea in 1945, the Moo Duk Kwan ("Institute of Martial Virtue") and four other Martial Art Schools were formed. The Moo Duk Kwan and Chi Do Kwan later formed the Korean Soo Bahk Do Association in 1960 to develop the study and practice of traditional Korean martial arts. Tang Soo (Soo Bahk) Do has since spread throughout the world. The "International Tang Soo Do Federation Moo Duk Kwan" was formed in 1989 to unite and develop Tang Soo Do worldwide. The United Kingdom Tang Soo Do Federation currently serves as its administrative and technical headquarters.