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WHORM Subject File Code: CO082
(Countries: Korea)
Case file Number(s): 260000-End
Box: 116

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U.S. National Archives & Records Administration

Current Status Details for CTRH RECID: 260048 MAIN SUBCODE: CO082

Current Status	None
User Name	dbarrie
Status Date	2010-05-11
Case Number	
Notes	Transferred to CO078

[Change Status](#)

[Close Window](#)

Review Status History

No.	Status	Date	User	Case Number	Notes
1	None	2010-05-11	dbarrie		Transferred to CO078



U.S. National Archives & Records Administration

Current Status Details for CTRH RECID: 368943 MAIN SUBCODE: CO082

Current Status	None
User Name	dbarrie
Status Date	2010-05-11
Case Number	
Notes	Transferred to CO082-02

Review Status History

No.	Status	Date	User	Case Number	Notes
1	None	2010-05-11	dbarrie		Transferred to CO082-02



U.S. National Archives & Records Administration

Current Status Details for CTRH RECID: 372183PD MAIN SUBCODE: CO082

Current Status	None
User Name	dbarrie
Status Date	2010-05-11
Case Number	
Notes	Transferred to CO082-02

Review Status History

No.	Status	Date	User	Case Number	Notes
1	None	2010-05-11	dbarrie		Transferred to CO082-02



U.S. National Archives & Records Administration

Current Status Details for CTRH RECID: 380143 MAIN SUBCODE: C0082

Current Status	None
User Name	dbarrie
Status Date	2010-05-11
Case Number	
Notes	Transferred to C0082-02

[Change Status](#)

[Close Window](#)

Review Status History

No.	Status	Date	User	Case Number	Notes
1	None	2010-05-11	dbarrie		Transferred to C0082-02



U.S. National Archives & Records Administration

Current Status Details for CTRH RECID: 410031 MAIN SUBCODE: CO082

Current Status	None
User Name	dbarrie
Status Date	2010-05-11
Case Number	
Notes	Transferred to CO082-02

[Change Status](#)

[Close Window](#)

Review Status History

No.	Status	Date	User	Case Number	Notes
1	None	2010-05-11	dbarrie		Transferred to CO082-02



U.S. National Archives & Records Administration

Current Status Details for CTRH RECID: 428284 MAIN SUBCODE: CO082

Current Status	None
User Name	dbarrie
Status Date	2010-05-11
Case Number	
Notes	Transferred to CO082-02

[Change Status](#)

[Close Window](#)

Review Status History

No.	Status	Date	User	Case Number	Notes
1	None	2010-05-11	dbarrie		Transferred to CO082-02



U.S. National Archives & Records Administration

Current Status Details for CTRH RECID: 432649PD MAIN SUBCODE: CO082

Current Status	None
User Name	dbarrie
Status Date	2010-05-11
Case Number	
Notes	Transferred to CO082-02

Review Status History

No.	Status	Date	User	Case Number	Notes
1	None	2010-05-11	dbarrie		Transferred to CO082-02

468402

ID #

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

C0082

8700554

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD)

86 11/21/15

Name of Correspondent: Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.

Kwon, Doo Young

MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject:

Seek the unification of Korea through permanent neutrality.

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
	CoCoza	ORIGINATOR	89 10/10?		C	89 10/15
	DOS	Referral Note:	89 10/10?		A	89 10/13
		Referral Note:	/ /			/ /
		Referral Note:	/ /			/ /
		Referral Note:	/ /			/ /

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure

- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments:

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.

Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).

Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 3500 _____

Prime Subject Code: 00082 Secondary Subject Codes: _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C		Time: _____	P- _____
DSP		Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

- CPn - Presidential Correspondence
 - n - 0 - Unknown
 - n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
 - n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
 - n - 3 - Ron
 - n - 4 - Dutch
 - n - 5 - Ron Reagan
 - n - 6 - Ronald
 - n - 7 - Ronnie

- CLn - First Lady's Correspondence
 - n - 0 - Unknown
 - n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
 - n - 2 - Nancy
 - n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

- CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence
 - n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
 - n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

- B - Box/package
- C - Copy
- D - Official document
- G - Message
- H - Handcarried
- L - Letter
- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

8300224

UNCLASSIFIED

(CLASSIFICATION)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 8700554

DATE January 15, 1987

FOR: MR. FRANK C. CARLUCCI
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
THE WHITE HOUSE

REFERENCE:

TO: President Reagan FROM: Kwon, Doo Young
DATE: 12/12/86 SUBJECT: Unification of Korea


REFERRAL DATED: 1/9/87 ID# 468402
(IF ANY)

_____ THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION TAKEN:

- _____ A DRAFT REPLY IS ATTACHED.
_____ A DRAFT REPLY WILL BE FORWARDED.
_____ A TRANSLATION IS ATTACHED.
 X AN INFORMATION COPY OF A DIRECT REPLY IS ATTACHED.
_____ WE BELIEVE NO RESPONSE IS NECESSARY FOR THE REASON
CITED BELOW.
_____ THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE
PROPOSED TRAVEL.
_____ OTHER (SEE REMARKS).

REMARKS:

for 
NICHOLAS PLATT
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

January 13, 1987

Mr. Kwon Doo Young
Chairman
Social Democratic Party
4th Floor, 45-1 Donui-dong Chongro-Ku
Seoul, Korea

Dear Mr. Kwon:

Thank you for your letter of December 12, 1986 to President Reagan concerning the important issue of Korean reunification. The White House has asked that I respond to your inquiry on behalf of President Reagan.

The reunification of the Korean peninsula is a goal shared by virtually all the Korean people. This goal is also one that the United States fully supports. For nearly forty years the United States has striven to reduce tensions on the Korean peninsula as a first step towards ultimate reunification. The governments of the Republic of Korea and the United States have repeatedly sought the reduction of tensions through a variety of initiatives, most recently in the North-South dialogues dealing with Red Cross, parliamentary, and economic issues. Unfortunately, however, all these talks were suspended unilaterally by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) last January.

While the North also seeks reunification of the Korean peninsula, it seeks reunification on its own, perhaps violent, terms. That is, the North seeks to incorporate the Republic of Korea into the DPRK and thus gain control of the entire peninsula. The United States will continue to oppose a solution by force to the problem of divided Korea.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Blakemore", with a long, sweeping underline.

David Blakemore
Director
Office of Korean Affairs

8700554

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

JANUARY 9, 1987

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 468402

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED DECEMBER 12, 1986

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. KWON DOO YOUNG
CHAIRMAN
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY
45-1 DONUI-DONG CHONGRO-KU
4TH FLOOR
SEOUL KOREA

SUBJECT: SEEKS UNIFICATION OF KOREA THROUGH PERMAMENT
NEUTRALITY

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

9

S. Schuchling

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

468402

4th Floor, 45-1 Donui-dong Chongro-Ku
Seoul, Korea

December 12, 1986

The Hon. Ronald Reagan
President
The United States of America
White House
Washington D.C.
U.S.A.

Dear President Reagan:

It is with great pleasure that I, on behalf of the Social Democratic Party which represents the peace-loving progressive forces in Korea, send you this formal letter asking for your cooperation in the pursuit and realization of a peaceful unification of the divided Korea through permanent neutrality similar to that of Switzerland or Austria.

As you are well aware, it has been the paramount aspiration of the whole Korean people to see an early realization of the peaceful unification of their fatherland since it was arbitrarily divided by the United States and the Soviet Union against the will of the Korean people after the end of World War II.

The age of territorial division which has spanned more than four decades since 1945 has imposed countless human suffering and national loss on the Korean people. Attempts at reunification in the past have proved futile mainly due to onesidedness and unreasonableness.

Under external and internal adversities, however, many Korean people have been pursuing the aim of peaceful unification through the permanent neutralization of the Korean peninsula as the most reasonable, practical and universally acceptable formula.

The Social Democratic Party which was inaugurated on March 1, 1985, the commemorative day of the Great Independence Movement of the Korean people on March 1, 1919 is determined to pursue and realize the peaceful unification of our fatherland through permanent neutrality inheriting the great spirit of the independence movement during the age of Japanese colonial rule and the peaceful unification movement during the age of territorial division under all oppressive and suppressive measures.

Dear President Reagan:

We emphasize that our national problem of peaceful unification should be solved primarily by ourselves at home. But, we also realize that the Korean peninsula is a geopolitically important area where the interests of the four major powers of the world, namely, the United States, the People's Republic of China, the Soviet Union and Japan interact and compete. Therefore, we must seek the understanding and cooperation of the four major powers for our peaceful unification movement. The Social Democratic Party believes that only a neutrally unified Korea can be commonly acceptable to the four major powers and accommodate the interests of the four major powers on the Korean peninsula peacefully. A unified Korea under permanent neutrality would be friendly to the four major powers and all the peace-loving peoples of the world.

The geostrategic location of the Korean peninsula makes the peninsula a tinderbox menacing the peace of Northeast Asia and that of the world at large. The two divided Korean states have concluded mutual security pacts with the three major military powers of the world; the Republic of Korea with the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union. Converging security interest conflicts of the four major powers on the Korean peninsula are constant burdens on the four major powers and another Korean War would lead to the danger of a Third World War.

It is our understanding that you are deeply interested in reducing tension and promoting peace on the Korean peninsula, and seeing ultimate realization of a peaceful unification of the Korean people. We are also convinced that you share our view that peaceful unification of a divided Korea via a permanent neutrality guaranteed by the four major powers and the United Nations is the only feasible solution to the Korean unification problem in the long run.

We know, the view that this is the only solution to the perennial Korean problem is shared by many in principle. But, it is difficult for this solution to be realized in practice. Many peace-loving Koreans in both South and North Korea have been put in prison or oppressed by their two governments for advocating this formula of peaceful unification in the past. Nevertheless, the Social Democratic Party in Korea will dauntlessly strive to realize this basic solution of the Korean unification problem overcoming the various difficulties and obstacles which lie ahead.

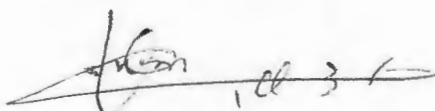
- cont'd -

We are convinced that most Koreans in our divided Korea would support peaceful unification via permanent neutrality if they could express their will freely. This is why the Social Democratic Party is struggling for the democratization of Korea including basic freedoms of speech, press and assembly. As you may imagine there has been hardly any opportunity in public, in the mass media or at the legislature for genuinely peace-loving Koreans to present their demands for peaceful unification via permanent neutrality under the extreme rightist rule in South Korea and extreme leftist rule in North Korea. However, we are glad to inform you that truly peace-loving Koreans are again emerging and gathering under the banner of the Social Democratic Party in Korea for a peaceful unification movement in this direction.

Dear President Reagan:

We hope that your Government will extend your kind cooperation to our Party and genuinely peace-loving Koreans in our efforts for the early realization of peaceful unification via permanent neutrality. It is also my hope that I can meet you or your representative in person in the not-too distant future to discuss matters of mutual concern regarding the Korean unification problem.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kwon, Doo Young', with a horizontal line drawn through it.

Kwon, Doo Young
Chairman
Social Democratic Party

We are convinced that most Koreans in our divided Korea would support peaceful unification via permanent neutrality if they could express their will freely. This is why the Social Democratic Party is struggling for the democratization of Korea including basic freedoms of speech, press and assembly. As you may imagine there has been hardly any opportunity in public, in the mass media or at the legislature for genuinely peace-loving Koreans to present their demands for peaceful unification via permanent neutrality under the extreme rightist rule in South Korea and extreme leftist rule in North Korea. However, we are glad to inform you that truly peace-loving Koreans are again emerging and gathering under the banner of the Social Democratic Party in Korea for a peaceful unification movement in this direction.

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Respectfully,



Kwon, Doo Young
Chairman
Social Democratic Party



U.S. National Archives & Records Administration

Current Status Details for CTRH RECID: 492474 MAIN SUBCODE: CO082

Current Status	None
User Name	dbarrie
Status Date	2010-05-11
Case Number	
Notes	Transferred to CO082-02

[Change Status](#)

[Close Window](#)

Review Status History

No.	Status	Date	User	Case Number	Notes
1	None	2010-05-11	dbarrie		Transferred to CO082-02

09

ID # 518078
C0082

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 87107124

Name of Correspondent: Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. Harry Lynch

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Writes of her desires to have Korea freed from bondage.

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>✓</u>	<u>CoCoza</u>	<u>ORIGINATOR</u>	<u>87107128</u>		<u>C</u>	<u>87108114</u>
<u>das</u>		<u>R</u>	<u>87107131</u>		<u>A</u>	<u>87108111</u>
			<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
			<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
			<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure
- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
 Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
 Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
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RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 4000

Prime Subject Code: CO 082 Secondary Subject Codes: _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

- CPn - Presidential Correspondence**
- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
- n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
- n - 3 - Ron
- n - 4 - Dutch
- n - 5 - Ron Reagan
- n - 6 - Ronald
- n - 7 - Ronnie

- CLn - First Lady's Correspondence**
- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

- CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence**
- n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

- B - Box/package**
- C - Copy**
- D - Official document**
- G - Message**
- H - Handcarried**
- L - Letter**
- M - Mailgram**
- O - Memo**
- P - Photo**
- R - Report**
- S - Sealed**
- T - Telegram**
- V - Telephone**
- X - Miscellaneous**
- Y - Study**

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 8721833

DATE August 13, 1987

EOR: MR. GRANT GREEN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
THE WHITE HOUSE

REFERENCE:

TO: The President **FROM:** Mrs. Harry Lynch

DATE: July 20, 1987 **SUBJECT:** Her desires to have
Korea freed from bondage.

REFERRAL DATED: July 31, 1987 **ID#** 518078
(IF ANY)

 THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION TAKEN:

- A DRAFT REPLY IS ATTACHED.
 A DRAFT REPLY WILL BE FORWARDED.
 A TRANSLATION IS ATTACHED.
 X AN INFORMATION COPY OF A DIRECT REPLY IS ATTACHED.
 WE BELIEVE NO RESPONSE IS NECESSARY FOR THE REASON
CITED BELOW.
 THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE
PROPOSED TRAVEL.
 OTHER (SEE REMARKS).

REMARKS:


DIRECTOR
SECRETARIAT STAFF



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

August 11, 1987

Mrs. Pokum Lee Lynch
42 Marivista Avenue
Waltham, MA 02154

Dear Mrs. Lynch:

Thank you for your letter of July 20 to President Reagan expressing your concern for Korea. I have been asked to respond directly to you.

The United States Government shares your concern for maintaining peace in Korea. The premature removal of U.S. forces from Korea in 1949, many historians believe, helped precipitate the 1950-1953 Korean Conflict. As you are aware, no peace treaty has ever been signed -- only the fighting, not the state of war, ended with the signing of the Armistice in July 1953. That a state of war still exists on the Korean peninsula, and that families remain separated so many years later, is indeed a tragedy, above all for the Korean people both in the North and the South. U.S. military forces are stationed in Korea at the request of the Korean government. Their purpose is to help ensure that the horrors of war are not again inflicted on the people of Korea. Our security commitment has also served another constructive purpose: the U.S. has helped maintain the defensive shield behind which the ROK has been able to develop one of the world's most dynamic economies, as well as take important steps toward developing a more open, democratic political system.

The United States Government also shares your interest in the eventual reunification of Korea. Reunification must eventually come; I am certain that the ardent desires of the Korean people for reunification will one day be fulfilled. However, reunification can only be achieved by the efforts of the Korean people themselves, who I believe also wish that it be achieved peacefully and in ways that will not imperil the political, economic and human rights of the South Korean people. North Korea is a highly-regimented, tightly-controlled society. The people of North Korea have no voice in their government and lack basic freedoms, including religious freedom. North Korea has one of the world's largest military forces, expending nearly one-quarter of its GNP to maintain its military machine. This imposes a great, and unnecessary, burden on its people. North Korean forces are deployed in great strength in an offensive posture along the DMZ. This poses a very real threat to the people of South Korea.

First steps toward peaceful reunification must begin with reducing tension and distrust; we believe the best way to do this is for North and South Korea to develop dialogue and contacts between them. We and the ROK have proposed a number of practical steps to reduce military tensions on the peninsula; these include the exchange of observers during military exercises. Moreover, we strongly believe trade, joint economic projects, family reunions, exchanges of correspondence, and the linking of the ROK and DPRK by telephone and roadway would all be practical first steps toward eventual reunification. The ROK government has proposed these steps to the North. Unfortunately, the DPRK unilaterally suspended dialogue with the ROK in January 1986. Since then, though both sides have made various dialogue offers, the North-South dialogue remains suspended. We hope that it will be resumed and have recently taken steps to allow our diplomats to discuss these matters with North Korean officials in neutral circumstances in the hope this might facilitate better North-South relations.

I hope you will find the above information useful. Again, thank you for your letter of July 20.

Sincerely,

Thomas P.H. Dunlop

Thomas P.H. Dunlop
Director
Office of Korean Affairs

8721833

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

JULY 31, 1987

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 518078

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JULY 20, 1987

TO: PRESIDENT AND MRS. REAGAN

FROM: MRS. HARRY LYNCH
42 MARIVISTA AVENUE
WALTHAM MA 02154

SUBJECT: WRITES OF HER DESIRES TO HAVE KOREA FREED
FROM BONDAGE

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

11-E
DOS

President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.,
Washington, D.C. 20500

July 20, 1987

Dear Mr. President and Mrs. Reagan;

I have a sincere wish for you before you leave The White House. Please let Korea be free from bondage. I strongly believe re-unification of South and North Korea is the first step to bring peace to Korea and America. This division of Korea is a great tragedy of Korean history. Because of the 38th parallel, Koreans have had to live in the prison cell of their own country land for the past 40 years. And because of the 38th parallel Koreans have bombed and killed their country folks and brothers and sisters without knowing who is the enemy. This evil of the 38th parallel line must be demolished and torn down. I haven't seen my relatives for the past 35 years. The same is true for many Korean families who are cut off from communication with relatives and friends. 1)

S. Kelley

As you can see from the news media, South Korea became like a slaughter-house. America must not support any dictators. If America turns its back on democracy and human right, the whole world will be doomed. Those of us with loved ones in Korea are keenly aware of political corruption and social oppression. The most evil thing of all is that people are USING the name of GOD and RELIGION, bombing and killing and invading other peoples countries. Korea never invaded another country. America must remove all military forces and nuclear bombs from Korea. KOREA MUST BE FOR KOREANS, not an American military nor one for the Russians.

I hope you and Mr. Gorbachev will open a summit for the re-unification of Korea make Korea a NEUTRAL COUNTRY. Korea has been tortured enough during past centuries by strong and aggressive countries.

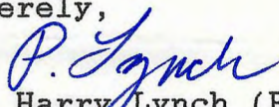
America visited the moon. In this great America, nothing is impossible. President Lincoln freed the American Negro, President ^{Nixon} opened the gate to China and President Carter peace for Egypt and Israel at Camp David. President Reagan; You can demolish the 38th parallel line, your name will shine in world history. We live on this earth only a brief moment, and we shall die, but history never dies.

Dear President; Have you ever dreamed of or had a vision? If every nation on the globe, used their enormous manpower and money for humanitarian purposes instead of producing destructive weapons and military power, this whole universe would become a Utopia.

My husband is a renowned Neuroendocrinologist at the Mass. Inst. Tech. and I have a masters degree in music from the Sherwood Music school, Chicago. I worked as a hematology technician a clinical laboratory and hospital past 15 years. Ironically, I married a Korean War veteran.

I pray, the good Lord will give you wisdom and courage for these time of crisis.

Sincerely,


Mrs. Harry Lynch (Pokum Lee)
42 Marivista Ave.,
Waltham, MA 02154

PS: Please read the enclosed article by John Boonstra. North Korea is not such a hell as I imagined.

Demystifying North Korea

Part 1: The responsibility of political life

By John Boonstra

Mention North Korea and what comes to mind? Cold, savage, inherently treacherous, atheist communists? Those responsible for the loss of loved ones who died in the Korean War? A colorless society ruled by a dictatorial strongman? A Third World country of backward technology, food shortages, and long lines of people scratching to meet basic human needs? Political repression? A police state? A place where religious people are persecuted? Many people say that all they know about North Korea is what they saw on MASH. Others admit that with all the other news and problems facing us today, and with all the struggles for racial equality, sexual mutuality, economic justice, and international peace—who would take time to even think about North Korea. After all, North Korea is "the hermit kingdom," isn't it? They are a reclusive, isolationist, private people, aren't they? They appear to be a distant Soviet satellite and they simply do not invite access—so why not let Korea continue to exist as an area of mystery, fear, and imagination left ripe for stereotyping and convenient categorization?

I had held many uninformed perceptions about North Korea; the possibility of visiting such a forbidding place was exciting. In preparing to visit, I heard there was no place in the entire world like North Korea, a country which prides itself on self-sufficiency and individual creativity. A country which is reaching out to develop foreign relations that are totally nondependent; a country which, contrary to popular thinking, is not a puppet state of any superpower. I knew about the political instability in South Korea and the criticisms of USA involvement in that country. I was eager to make comparisons with activity in the North. What is going on in North Korea? What is its history since 1953 and what is everyday life like for the 20

million people who live there?

When I'm asked why citizens of the USA should be interested in North Korea, I suggest four reasons. *First*, as citizens and as Christians, we profess a commitment to peace, to an emphasis on nonmilitary solutions to problems whenever possible. Korea is one of the most sensitive nuclear flashpoints on the face of the earth. The entire Korean peninsula is militarized to the hilt. The southern half of Korea is loaded with over 1,000 nuclear weapons placed there by the USA government as a deterrent and threat to the USSR. If the USA is willing to risk a nuclear war through a tactical, limited nuclear conflict in Korea, then we had better understand what is at stake there.

Second, as citizens and as Christians, we profess a commitment to the human family, to the preservation of communities of people as they have evolved in history. Korea is a classic example of a people whose cultural, political, and economic autonomy has been violated repeatedly by foreign powers. The USA has been cited as a prime example of this kind of interference, not only in Korea, but in many places around the world. In Korea, foreign interference has subjected communities to racial exploitation, cultural genocide, and human hardship. Injustice is a consequence of foreign greed and militarization under the guise of security for countries thousands of miles away. Those of us who hold dear the principles of self-determination and communal dignity are confronted with serious and disturbing questions about the role of the USA and the history of the Christian church in Korea.

Third, as citizens and as Christians, we profess a commitment to economic justice, to mutual access to resources and job opportunity and an arrangement of production that encourages creativi-

ty, full human potential, and a meaningful life for all members of society. We have viewpoints about the global economy. We are interested in the international effects of our economy and in other models of economic life, models which can instruct us in our search for a just way of working and of consuming resources. Korea presents us with both: South Korea, an example of the effects of Western global economic priorities, and North Korea, an example of socialist construction.

Fourth, as citizens and as Christians, we profess a commitment to gathering information about the histories and actions of peoples and to active communication with all of our species to build a better world. Our attitudes about North Korea exemplify the power of stereotypes and myths that have been allowed to exist in our consciousness. Our nation does much to restrict our access to the people of North Korea. This restricts our search for more data and truth about the human family and a greater understanding of the forces behind international politics.

Background

The invitation to visit the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK) was extended by the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, in cooperation with the Christian churches in the DPRK. Our delegation engaged in extensive preparation through reading and conversations with Koreans. We made contact with those persons responsible for interchurch relations involving Korea, both in the USA and at international levels.

It seems to me that the intent of the North Koreans in allowing us such a rare and extensive visit of their country was to alter their own image in the Western world, especially in the USA. They obviously want us to tell their side of the story as a way to gain support for their understanding of history—especially the history of the Korean War and the events of the intervening years—and their plans for the reunification of their country. At no time, however, did they put us under pressure; they were respectful of our disagreements at various points.

Their desire for us to present a positive image of North Korea to our constituencies back home and to give a positive impression of the life of the

North Korean church and society appeared motivated by a very real and profound fear, which was evident everywhere we went. This is a fear of being drawn into a military conflict that would mean another and even more devastating destruction of the cities and the population of the DPRK. It is a fear exacerbated by the presence of nuclear warheads in South Korea and by large military exercises ("Team Spirit") conducted by 208,000 USA forces, along with troops from Japan and South Korea. There is much more to say about this issue, including the question of whether there is justifiable fear in the South of aggression from the North. But suffice it to say that our delegation became convinced that one of the purposes of the military buildup in the South is having its intended effect—namely, the creation of a deep-seated fear among the people of the North, the leaders and the citizenry alike. It is evident that in a rigidly conformist society where the media is highly controlled the opportunity to create fear, whether real or imagined, is simply a given. Nonetheless it is our conviction that while the nature of the threat is debatable, the fear which it has occasioned is very real.

This deeply felt fear has led North Korea to make friends with other nations, especially those countries such as the USA where the threat is perceived to be most volatile and potentially harmful. Here I believe the church has a most important role to play. Obviously, fear exists in the USA as it does in the DPRK. It is evident that North Korea is regarded with a great deal of fear and distrust in the USA. Perhaps this fear is justified—yet our stereotypes are not justified.

Everyday Life

The people of the DPRK, under the leadership of Kim Il Sung, have totally rebuilt a physically devastated country in the past 30 years. At the end of the Korean War there were only a few buildings left standing in Pyongyang and a very few villages in the countryside. Now Pyongyang is a huge city with nearly 1 million inhabitants. There are huge, expansive, marble government buildings and museums, high-rise modern apartments, huge elaborate study halls, schools, auditoriums, theaters, hospitals, conference hotels, sports stadiums, health centers, shopping areas, amuse-

ment parks, restaurants, and a most exquisite marble-sided and chandelier-adorned subway system. No stereotypical Third World images can apply to Pyongyang. There was no evident disparity between people, no poor, run-down neighborhoods, and no evidence of human suffering. It is a beautiful city—wide avenues and boulevards, little traffic (except for crowded buses at rush hour), abundant greenery, lots of parks and rivers. We saw no lines whatsoever—not for restaurants, stores, subways, or theaters.

Most of the buses run on overhead electric lines—there is much hydroelectric power in the DPRK—although you still see gasoline-powered buses made from old trucks. Trucks are everywhere, often people riding in the back. They look like Russian or old Studebaker trucks, but they are of Korean manufacture. Unlike China, North Korea has few bicycles and almost no human-pulled carts. Automobiles are also produced in the DPRK. The names for the automobile models are Victory, Underground, and Resurrection. The name Resurrection refers to the resurrection of the Korean people following the anti-Japanese war.

Although the two-week visit offered us a measure of freedom of movement and brought us into spontaneous contacts with people along the way, it nevertheless was insufficient to justify firm conclusions on the social, economic, and political life. Still, I will chance a number of value judgments, provisional though they may be. If one considers the sharing of the country's resources among all the members of the society, one must conclude that the DPRK has an egalitarian social order. All persons are given an opportunity for educational advancement, without cost, through the college years; medical care of apparently high quality is available to every person, without cost. There are no charges for housing, medicines, books, and most utilities; there are charges for electricity and public transportation. There are no taxes on income or consumer goods; there is only a 10 percent difference in the highest and lowest wage scales. There is equal access to day-care facilities, theaters, sporting events, amusement parks, barber and beauty shops, and the like.

With respect to living conditions, apartments in the city are provided based on proximity to work and size of family. All have t.v.s, with color t.v.s going first to smaller families and single peo-

ple. Apartments also have radios, fans, floor heating, and furniture. Most of the services—food stores, restaurants, laundry facilities—are available on the first floor of the apartment complexes and this, in part, accounts for the small amount of hustle-bustle on the streets. Rural accommodations have the same essentials, but are generally not as developed. We visited Kaesong, near the border at Panmunjom, and were told that "While we don't have many of the fine goods found in the city of Pyongyang, we do get basic services and essential needs which we can't produce in this part of the country. But aside from that, what we have is what we develop here in our own community. We do not want to be dependent on Pyongyang for goods we can produce on our own—even if they are of lesser quality."

The educational system is one of the most impressive elements of the DPRK. Like all countries, the DPRK tries hard to infuse its way of life into the thinking and consciousness of the population. Children are particularly important and moldable. Nursery and day-care centers are scattered throughout the DPRK. In these centers children are already learning about the quest for reunification and learning the competitive and cooperative integration of sports, and musical talents. When children attend grade school, they also attend classes at the Children's Palace, a huge complex in the heart of Pyongyang, with smaller versions throughout the country. The Palace functions much like a YM/WCA. Children go there to learn everything from science, railroading, engineering, medicine, and computers to ballet, music, sewing, and cooking. I will not leave you guessing about which classes the boys took and which the girls took—the stereotyped roles were present everywhere. The Children's Palace was a microcosm of society—it was a marvelous example of mixing theory with practice. There was an emphasis on creativity, growth, excellence, and cooperation.

We also had the opportunity to visit Kim Il Sung University, of which there are over 180 branches throughout the country. The government pays, of course, for all expenses while students are at the university. After all, graduates will spend a lifetime working for the government that has supported them through school.

We visited the Grand People's Study Hall, a simply monstrous building, in which books,

records, videotapes, and classes of all kinds are available to adults. The point is that everyone is encouraged to study at all times. The literacy rate exceeds 85 percent. Adults are required to attend the study hall one day per week. In the main People's Study Hall, there are over 13 million books, all computerized —any book can be secured by the computer within two minutes. All rooms are equipped with the latest SONY equipment, and there are t.v.s, computers, musical and other audio systems at people's disposal. People are free to study any discipline. This applies to agricultural workers, industrial workers, and students. Every room in every institution of learning in the DPRK has a picture of the Great Leader, Kim Il Sung, on one of its walls. At the same time, we noticed that the longer a person had been a student, and the more sophisticated the adult, the less often was the Great Leader mentioned in their conversation.

Every person is encouraged to use the health spas that are located throughout the country. The one we toured —the showcase, I'm sure —had swimming pools, saunas, beauty parlors, and exercise rooms.

The priority of children was never more evident than in the highly sophisticated Maternity Hospital. Again, we toured the central hospital in Pyongyang. The most advanced equipment of all hospitals is used on pregnant women. The medical equipment we saw was made in Eastern Europe and Japan. In the area of medical care alone, my feeling is that the DPRK offers a much more equitable system than found in many countries —including the USA. The quality of the technology may not be as high as in most developed countries (although it is surprisingly high) and the quality of professional care is probably inferior to that found in the USA, but the technology and training that is available is given to all irrespective of vocation, financial resources, or position in society.

Incidentally, we were told at the Maternity Hospital that there is no need for birth control in the DPRK. For one thing, more babies are desirable. For another, there are no unwanted children. Marriages are all planned. There is no sexual disease, and we were told there were no abortions. The birth rate is 1.5 percent and the life expectancy is now 76 years.

Economic Development

Everyone in the DPRK is engaged in some kind of work. Highest wages are never more than 10 percent greater than the lowest wages. They are based on "how much energy is expended" in the task. Heavy industrial work is paid greater than lighter work. Nursery school teachers may make more than some university professors. We asked whether "mental work" was paid on a higher scale than "physical work," but were told that it was impossible to generalize. The aims of the work system are to increase skills in every instance. Nobody thinks of the possibility of unemployment. If, in the state plan, an industry is automated or mechanized, workers will be shifted to another project.

This coordination is possible because of a democratically centralized method of establishing economic work plans. For example, at a local factory we saw workers involved in an elaborate process of assessing their productive capabilities, worker safety issues, quotas, and so forth. We noted that there is incentive built into the labor process. The highest rewards are for the invention of an idea that increases productivity or makes for a more efficient production process. Many times the reward is financial, other times it is a promotion. Under the work system, management positions are intimately related to the shop floor —we were told that workers and managers have mutual authority in setting goals. The differences come in areas and levels of responsibility. National coordination of the economy means that companies do not come and go from local areas and leave workers stranded without a livelihood or in a situation where they must be supported by the state because there is no work.

There are major economic goals in the DPRK: 1) to increase mechanization, 2) to advance forms of chemicalization, 3) to reclaim tideland and construct projects, and 4) to develop electrification and thermal-power installations. We asked whether everyone in the country had enough to eat and were told to ask "What does the community say?" We answered they'd say "yes." The consumption/surplus ratio is 3:1. We asked if there were any reserves and were told yes. The surplus finances the construction of schools, hospitals, and government buildings. We know much of it

goes to insure an active military. We asked if there were banks, if people had savings accounts and could get loans. We were told yes and that the interest rate averages 3 to 4 percent.

Primary trade relations are with the USSR, China, Eastern Europe, Third World countries, and some individual companies in capitalist Europe, excluding Great Britain. 70 percent of all raw materials are used internally. People believe that if they use their own raw materials, the economy will not be subject to rapid fluctuation and will not encourage dependency. 98 percent of the machinery in the DPRK is made in the DPRK. Industry, like self-sufficiency, is glorified. They export machine tools, tractors, electric locomotives, and so forth.

There are two distinctions of class in the economy: the worker class and the peasant class. Workers contribute to a nationally owned, operated, and planned economy. Peasants, most of whom are agricultural workers, work in cooperative farms, which exist to profit only those who are members of the co-op. In time, it is hoped that peasants will see the value of nationally owned and planned economic life and will elect to change their co-ops to state ownership. The state now sells fertilizer and machinery to the co-ops without profit and buys back agricultural products not used by the co-op at regular market prices. Of course, the government is trying to educate the peasants about a different conception of ownership and the virtues and strengths of the philosophy of "all for one and one for all." To do this, the government requires the military and state workers to spend occasional weekends providing assistance and work in the co-op fields. These workers are not paid—their labor, in effect, benefits and increases the profits of the co-op. The point is to enlarge the peasants' understanding of "self-interest."

All social organizations, unions, and political parties are seen as having political responsibilities. Whether it is the Youth league, the Women's league, a worker-based union, a community social group, or a political party—the primary purposes are the same: 1) to provide a means for participation in the decisions that affect everyday life, 2) to provide a structure for continuing education of the population, and 3) to provide better community relations.

Organizations and parties do not play an adversarial role in the DPRK. Trade unions in the DPRK never negotiate with the Workers' Party of the government on labor relations. We were told that under the worker participation structures within each work place this function of unions was not necessary. This may be true, but examples such as Poland will make most of us skeptical, or at least more curious, about such a structure. The important point is that everyone is involved in a union and in some kind of political group. The participation is not granted as a privilege, but is everyone's responsibility—and this is enforced. It is extremely difficult to convey the feelings of community and interconnections felt between people about institutions in the DPRK. Concepts such as democracy, freedom, rights, and liberties are seen *both* in their individual and communal senses.

Irying pan subscriber JOHN BOONSTRA is a seminary graduate and church activist in Seattle, Washington, and recently visited North Korea. As the director of the "Peace with Justice" dialogue sponsored by the Church Council of Greater Seattle, he shared his impressions of the country, which he has collected into an article for *Irying pan*. Part 1, in the December 1984 issue, describes the social, economic, and political life of the North Korean people. Part 2, in the January 1985 issue, examines their ideology, their government, and the issues of war and peace.

Back from a 'happy' North Korea

By Marilyn E. Bailey
The Tribune

When a small church delegation visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea recently, Bay Area ministers Will L. Herzfeld and John Moyer were impressed with what they saw.

The delegation is the first non-Korean church group from the U.S. allowed into the country that Americans call North Korea. Only a few dozen individual U.S. travelers, mostly university scholars, have been allowed entry in the past 31 years since the U.S. signed a cease fire to end the Korean War, they said.

Herzfeld, minister at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in West Oakland, said he was shocked at the misinformation United States citizens receive about the DPRK, a Communist country.

He said propaganda that the country is a "menacing, 'Red' threat," is "just not true."

The U.S. presence with an estimated 40,000 troops and thousands of nuclear weapons in South Korea, supposedly because of the threat of an invasion by the north, is not necessary, Herzfeld said.

"We saw DPRK soldiers in the fields with peasants helping to plant rice," Herzfeld said. "They are not thinking about war; they are too busy building up their country."

Herzfeld and Moyer were part of a four-man delegation hosted by members of the DPRK's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland.

Moyer, a Presbyterian, is executive director of the Northern California Ecumenical Council, based in San Francisco.

The other two members of the delegation, which returned June 11 after a two-week tour, were John Boonstra, of the Washington State Association of



Rev. John Moyer: Joined Bay Area delegation of ministers for a tour of North Korea

Churches in Seattle, and Paul Wee, the New York City-based general secretary of the 600-million, Geneva-headquartered Lutheran World Ministries.

Herzfeld said the church community has been "intensely interested," in South Korea for the past eight years because of endless reports of human rights suppression and repression of church leaders there and of workers.

The interest in South Korea led the U.S. church officials to study U.S. propaganda reports on North Korea, Herzfeld said.

Rev. Gustav H. Schultz, who visited the DPRK in 1981 and the south in 1974, was the catalyst of the delegation's recent tour.

Schultz, bishop for the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in the southwest province, said conflicting reports from the U.S. government and the church community present a dilemma for Americans.

"They don't know what to believe," Schultz, of Berkeley, said.

He said that while there are some limitations on freedom in the north, the south is more repressive. And, he said, living conditions in the north are superior.

He said many church leaders who speak out for democracy

and against South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan are jailed. Church officials are also persecuted for their fight for workers' rights, he said.

South Korean workers are employed long hours at low wages to provide cheap labor for multinational businesses, including a lengthy list of American businesses, he said.

Herzfeld said bayonet-carrying soldiers (South Korean, Japanese and American) abound in Seoul, the capital of the Republic of Korea, or South Korea.

A joint military exercise, involving more than 207,000 U.S. and South Korean military personnel, was held earlier this year to test combat readiness, the combined forces reported. The U.S. force numbered about 60,000. The annual "Team Spirit" maneuvers began in 1976, based on the two countries' mutual defense treaty.

In contrast, Herzfeld said the DPRK is progressive, with free health care and educational benefits for its people, and is not the closed society "we've been led to believe."

"We had free access to just about everything imaginable in the country. The two weeks were packed with visits and seminars

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