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**A Realistic View of the Problems Now Affecting
Korea presented by Young Kee Kim for the 8th
Anniversary of the Independence of Korea (Draft)**

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A realistic view of the problems now affecting Korea is presented by Korean Minister Young Koo Kim on the occasion of the 8th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Korea.

On August 15, the Republic of Korea will celebrate the 8th anniversary of its independence.

The free people of Korea rejoice on this happy day when their hard won freedom is once again commemorated. But their brothers in the North, held captives against their will, do not rejoice as do free men in their own land.

The tragedy of the Panmunjom truce gave powerful advantage to the Communists to occupy our country above the 38th parallel and to this day in North Korea our people live in enslavement and terrorism under Communist domination. The Communists exact complete surrender of all human decencies and our people in the North, forced into this hapless situation live only as automatons.

Why is North Korea in Communist hands? When the Soviet Union declared war against Japan, on August 8, 1945, it announced its adherence to the Potsdam Declaration which included reference to the Cairo Declaration, a step which was in effect a public announcement of its support of Korean independence.

At the Potsdam conference the 38th parallel became an issue. It was decided that American troops would accept Japanese surrender south of the 38th parallel, and that Soviet troops would occupy the North. The line of demarcation was intended to be temporary, and only to fix responsibility between the United States and the Soviet Union, after the Japanese surrender.

The United States began a gradual program which culminated in the proclamation of Korea's independence on August 15, 1948, but only in South Korea.

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In the North the Soviet Union refused to grant voice to the people to elect their own candidates and form their own unified government. This refusal was made against the suggestion of the United Nations to conduct free elections under its supervision in Korea to unify the country. It was made clear that the Soviet Union had no intention of relinquishing her hold in North Korea. The systematic Communization of North Korea began and our people were placed under the domination of Russian trained Communist sympathizers. The Communist pattern, followed in other countries of Asia and Europe, had its repetition in a program leading to one end - world conquest by the Communists..

July

In June 1950 the Communists invaded South Korea and in 1950 reached as far South as the Pusan perimeter. Only the timely intervention of the United Nations put a stop to this aggression under the Communist guise of "Liberation".

The Republic of Korea forces, and United Nations forces which included one hundred and fifty killed, wounded, or missing Filipino soldiers, managed to push back the enemy. Hundreds of thousands of Korean civilians died, one million people were rendered homeless. Homes, buildings and factories were destroyed. 100,000 boys and girls were orphaned.

Now we are rebuilding our war torn country and are thankful to the United States and other free nations for their financial and technical assistance given us for reconstruction and rehabilitation. We are very grateful to the Philippines for sending its Battalion Combat Teams to Korea for the cause of freedom and democracy.

We in Korea maintain a period of watchful waiting which may be transformed into another time of sorrow for us if the free world will not heed our warning that North Korea, under the treacherous mechanization of Communism, is now preparing to launch another attack.

However,

/ we know that the Communists in North Korea are now being geared for heavier battle. We know that in defiance of the terms of the Armistice North Korea is arming herself with tanks, sabre jets, and other up-to-date weapons of war in preparation for further military aggression. The current peace offensive by Bulganin and Khrushchev is nothing but a trick to lure the

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so-called neutral nations into the Communist trap.

For us in Korea, freedom means the conclusion of our many years of struggle, suffering and suppression. We will never give up to the enemy our right to freedom. The present appeasement policies of the free world however are giving the Communists a chance to strike us in the back.

Peace to us means complete freedom from fear, and freedom to run our own affairs in our own land. Can we have peace when 9 million Koreans are still in bondage in the northern part of our land? Can we have peace as long as the enemy lurks in our own soil?

Events in the past have proven that the Communists are out for world conquest. The status quo is only a brief respite for the enemy to plan another stratagem in the cold war. The Communists should be made to realize that the free world is determined to live in freedom, to force the enemy back to where he belongs, in his own land; in short, to roll back the Iron Curtain which has fallen heavily on so many millions of peoples throughout the world.

Let us remember that peace can never be restored in a world half Communist and half Democratic.

We would like to remind you of what our beloved President Syngman Rhee said in America when he visited that noble country in 1954.

"Lincoln stood for unity, and it is what I want for my divided country." Indeed Abraham Lincoln would well have understood the tragedy in Korea, for his Gettysburg address means as much today as after the Civil war ~~between the North and South~~, when he said, "We resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain."