



AMERICAN - KOREAN FRIENDSHIP AND INFORMATION CENTER

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Dear Friend:

The main focus of the news today, as it concerns United States foreign policy is, as it should be, on Indochina and the Middle East. There is, however, another area of major concern about which almost no reliable information reaches us. There is much misinformation and deliberate untruth about Korea, a country which has not known genuine peace for 30 years.

Korea is in the news when a U.S. imperialist spy ship is captured in North Korean waters, or a U.S. plane is shot down over North Korean territory. This is page-one news, followed by expressions of outrage, denials, threats of reprisal, and, finally, acknowledgment of trespass which is never really acknowledgment. Korea comes into the news again with brief and buried items about student uprisings in South Korea or strikes against starvation wages. These never make page one.

Almost the only news about North Korea that enters the United States comes through the suspect auspices of the government at Seoul. There is occasional reportage and commentary in the radical press, but this has a circumscribed audience.

There is ample evidence that the government of the United States would prefer this condition of ignorance and misinformation about Korea to persist, so that it can develop without interference its policy of neo-colonialism by economic penetration and political control.

There is a grave danger that a new generation of Americans could be involved in a second "war that nobody wants" in Korea. More and more, there are hints in the press that dangers are rising on the Korean peninsula, despite the periodic Pentagonian rumors and planted news reports in the media about American troop withdrawal from South Korea.

The basic aim of the new phase of American policy regarding Korea is to turn over to a rapidly remilitarizing Japan the major share of the policing responsibility for Korea. This is directed ultimately at the destruction of an economically strong and politically independent North Korea, and at a confrontation with the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union over Korea.

We believe, therefore, that Korea is a most urgent item on the world agenda. Our government must be dissuaded from reactivating a disastrous policy regarding Korea. The first step toward this end is to oppose as vigorously as possible military appropriations for Korea, and to insist that Washington withdraw all U.S. imperialist armed forces and war materiel from South Korea, and from the waters surrounding Korea—*completely and finally*.

This is a job for Americans to do—Americans of anti-imperialist persuasion who are equipped to inform our fellow Americans of the disaster to the nation that would ensue from another Korean War.

To make the American people aware of these ominous developments, and the nature of their national interests in Korea, we who have signed this letter have agreed to become the initiating-sponsors of an American-Korean Friendship and Information Center.

Specifically, the purpose of the Center is to help organize a campaign of the utmost pressure on the government of the United States to:

1. END ITS MILITARY SUBSIDY OF A DESPISED REGIME IN SOUTH KOREA;
2. EFFECT A TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF ALL ITS MILITARY FORCES AND WAR MATERIEL IN SOUTH KOREA;
3. ABANDON ITS POLICY OF "JAPANIZATION" OF KOREA.

The people of Korea want to determine their own future without foreign interference; they should have that right.

We are pleased to inform you that the Center is already functioning, and is gradually being staffed with officers and office personnel.

Five thousand copies of the first edition of the Position Paper have already been mailed. This second edition of 20,000 is now being circulated.

A newsletter to be called *Korean Focus* is being planned, as well as forums, meetings, exhibitions, and concerts of Korean music, campus lectures on Korean events, and publicity and advertising campaigns.

There is still time to avoid a military confrontation, but it grows shorter. In this belief we ask you to join with us as a sponsor of the Center, and to work with us in this urgent task. Your professional advice and fraternal guidance will be most welcome.

Yours for peace and sanity,
Sincerely,

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