RECTIFYING AN OLD INJUSTICE

THE WAR MEMORIAL OF KOREA

A PROPOSAL
THE KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

The Background

The Korean War is the only major war in the history of the United States which has no national monument to honor those who gave their lives in it.

This represents, we believe, a most singular injustice:
* specifically, to those who laid down their lives, and
* more generally, to the sacrifices which the United States, the Republic of Korea and their many allies made in the course of the war and have continued to make ever since.

Countless Americans believe that the time has come for this injustice to be remedied, and want to see a suitable monument honoring the fallen of that war established in Washington D.C.

So towards the end of last year (1981) we formed a small Committee to see what we could do to address this situation, and one of us returned to Seoul to sound out the support which might be forthcoming from Korea.

Since then, we have taken - or now have under way - the following steps:

* The Committee we formed has been formally named The National Committee for the Korean War Memorial, and incorporated in the District of Columbia as a non-profit organization.

* A full National Committee of nationally-known leaders is being actively recruited from a broad spectrum of American life, including many of the most prominent military and political figures of that period.

* A small, bi-partisan group of leaders in both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives has been approached to sponsor the necessary legislation.

* The initial procedures have been started for the drafting of this legislation, which is required by U.S. law.

* Discussions have been opened with the National Park Service for the selection of the most appropriate site for the Monument here in Washington D.C.

* The first moves have been made to bring together the appropriate persons to act as our Legal Counsel, our Auditors, and our coordinator of fund-raising activities.
The Tasks Ahead

We envisage the following steps as the most crucial during the next few months:

* drafting the necessary legislation for both Houses of Congress.
* working for its passage by both Houses of Congress.
* effecting compliance with the many Federal and local regulations which pertain to Monuments on Federal Property.
* arranging for the necessary site work, and
* raising the necessary funds here in the United States to bring this enterprise to a successful conclusion.

The Monument would pay tribute to the fallen of the War - a justice long delayed in coming.

But more importantly, it would also pay tribute to the long and close collaboration of the Republic of Korea and the United States.

When the Monument is officially dedicated, with high officials of both Governments participating, the ceremonies would constitute a major occasion for re-affirming the close ties between our two great countries, and a uniquely opportune moment to insure that those ties are strengthened

Signed:

Dr. Timothy Hallinan, President,
National Committee for the Korean War Memorial.

Dr. Chayon Kim, Secretary/Treasurer,
National Committee for the Korean War Memorial.

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