



MASSACHUSETTS
Korea Peace Campaign

February 20, 2019

Dear Senator Ed Markey:

The Massachusetts Korea Peace Campaign is a growing movement of Korean-Americans and allies in Massachusetts standing in support of the peace and reconciliation process on the Korean Peninsula. We are a multi-generational group, coming from all walks of life, and we are committed to ending the long-festering Korean War.

Congress faces many critical issues in our nation today, and we write to you with a particular sense of urgency regarding the situation in Korea. A rare diplomatic opening now exists that could lead to lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula, a peace which will contribute immensely to security in the United States and the rest of the world as well.

We urge you to support negotiations toward a new relationship between the U.S. and two Koreas and the adoption of a formal Peace Treaty to replace the 65-year-old Armistice Agreement. Eighty million people on the Korean Peninsula, millions more in the diaspora, and all peace-loving people around the world wish to see this process succeed. Over 70% of South Koreans want peace and reconciliation with the North, and over 54% of American voters applauded the United States-North Korea Summit in June 2018. Please act on this mandate and build on this opportunity.

Koreans are a people with a 5,000-year history who share a common language, culture, and tradition. When World War II ended, Korea was liberated from 35 years of brutal Japanese colonization, only to be divided immediately by the U.S. and the former USSR into North and South. This imposed division led to the Korean War, causing the deaths of 4 million people, the majority of whom were civilians. But the promise to replace the Armistice Agreement with a Peace Treaty was never realized. As a result, Koreans on both sides of the heavily armed de-militarized zone (DMZ) have lived over 70 years in a virtual state of war, kept apart from each other by weapons, landmines, and barbed wire fences. Too many Koreans have died while waiting to reunite with their loved ones.

At the historic June 12, 2018, Singapore Summit, President Donald Trump and Chairman Kim Jung-Un of North Korea declared, “The DPRK commits to work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.” Prior to that, in the Panmunjom Declaration of April 27, 2018, President Moon Jae-In of South Korea and Chairman Kim agreed to carry out disarmament in a phased manner “as

military tension is alleviated and substantial progress is made in military confidence-building.” The removal of landmines and Guard Posts in the DMZ has already started by both Koreas.

At the recent Pyongyang Summit on September 18, 2018, President Moon and Chairman Kim reaffirmed their commitment to transforming the Korean Peninsula into a land of permanent peace. The two leaders outlined their vision of a new era in inter-Korean relations, and put forward concrete proposals for military security, economic prosperity, and social/civic engagement. They also committed to a common goal of realizing, through complete denuclearization, a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula.

We, the Massachusetts Korea Peace Campaign, acknowledge that denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula cannot be a one-sided process, nor can it happen overnight. As outlined in the June 11, 2018, letter to the White House from California Congressman Ro Khanna and fourteen members of Congress, “The best the U.S. can hope for is a phased denuclearization which would manage the greatest risks early on and then address lower priority aspects of the program over the course of ten or more years.”

We now have a rare opportunity to achieve peace. Let us shift our priorities away from war and division. Please seize this moment, acknowledging that peace in Korea can lead to security and prosperity throughout Northeast Asia and the United States. We urge you, esteemed members of the U.S. Congress, to commit to contributing to a lasting peace in Korea. We believe that our common work for peace should go beyond political advantages and disadvantages. After all peace is a basic human right and should transcend partisan politics.

Please support our grassroots efforts by:

- supporting the efforts of North and South Koreas to continue their confidence building efforts towards a final peace treaty, when making a public statement regarding the Korean peace initiative,
- supporting the autonomy of both ROK and DPRK leadership to engage in direct, two party negotiations to determine the future of the Korean Peninsula,
- encouraging congressional leadership of both political parties to express positive attitudes towards a Korean peace treaty and eventual denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula,
- meeting with delegations of Korean-Americans advocating for a peace treaty to better understand history, needs, concerns and preferences of the Korean people, whether in the North or South, and
- refraining from derogatory statements regarding the character or intentions of the leadership of DPRK as they are likely ill-informed and not conducive to constructive negotiations.

We encourage you to advocate publicly for a true and lasting peace and we welcome an opportunity to discuss with you the historical, geopolitical, economic, and social framework of the current situation on the Korean Peninsula. Please direct your replies to Shin Ahn at ShinMAKPC@gmail.com or Keumjoo Armstrong at kmjoolee@hotmail.com.

Thank you for your strong support and leadership. Please stand with us.

Sincerely,

Supporters of Massachusetts Korea Peace Campaign

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