

1974**A Letter to Congress: Appeal of Constituents and
Voters to Our Elected Representatives in the
Congress of the USA****Citation:**

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Summary:

In the aftermath of a second overture to the U.S. Congress from North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly, the AKFIC mobilized a letter-writing campaign among its supporters.

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Transcript - English

A Letter to Congress

APPEAL OF CONSTITUENTS AND VOTERS TO OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CONGRESS OF THE U.S.A.

Dear Members of Congress:

On March 25, 1974, the Congress of the United States received an unprecedented communication from the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). The communication set forth restrained and reasonable proposals for a treaty of peace on the Korean peninsula. (See Congressional Record, April 9, 1974, pp. 2245)

To date, the Korean Assembly has received not even an acknowledgement of this historic letter. We find this silence not only shockingly discourteous; it seems an incomprehensible refusal to explore a welcome opportunity to create a meaningful state of peace in a most critical area of Asia.

The letter from Pyongyang proposed the following:

1. A non-aggression agreement with a provision that there be no United States interference in the internal affairs of the Korean people.
2. A discontinuance of armament escalation and introduction of new weapons, combat equipment and war supplies in Korea on both sides.
3. Withdrawal of all foreign troops from South Korea at the earliest possible date. (There are no foreign troops in North Korea.)
4. A guarantee that Korea will not become a military or operational base for any country.

To our mind, those proposals form the basis for negotiations between the United States and the DPRK, which could lead to the end of a persistently dangerous situation on the Korean peninsula.

The only answer to date to these proposals is the sinister response, however indirect, by Secretary of the Air Force, John McLucas. He indicated that the United States would shift a squadron of F-4 Phantom jet fighters from Thailand to South Korea to replace less effective models. This, of course, is directly contrary to one of the North Korean proposals.

Many of us have followed United States-Korean relations with care and concern for many years. We have noted the reluctance of the government at Seoul to negotiate with the North on Pyongyang's proposals - now two years old - for the peaceful reunification of both Koreas.

We ask you to investigate the strange silence concerning the letter from the Supreme People's Assembly, and, further, to address yourself generally to the pressing but neglected question of a permanent peace on the Korean peninsula.

At a time when the foreign policy of the U.S. seems to be turning more and more to détente with the Soviet Union, China, the Middle East, and even Cuba, our

government's policy is particularly distressing in light of the reports of objective journalistic observers and scholars of the increasingly repressive measures being taken against any opposition to the government in South Korea.

Believing that all the people of Korea should be given a respectful hearing as a basis for understanding and friendship between our peoples, and that we can respond in a very significant way through our elected representatives in the House and Senate, we remain,

Most sincerely yours,

(Organizations, professions and functions listed for identification only.)

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