

## CLOSING ADDRESS

Now it is time to close this seminar for the 50th anniversary of the Korean War.

I would like to express my gratitude to Gen Paik, Korean War hero, who came to attend this seminar and speak for us. I also would like to extend my gratitude to those who served as guest speakers, panelists, paper presenters and participants for this seminar. Thanks especially to those who traveled long distances from places such as Korea, China, Japan, Russia and outside of the Washington metropolitan area. My special thanks go to Dr and M.G. Kim Chom Kon, the President of the Institute of Peace Studies, who made this seminar possible by providing academic and financial contributions. My thanks also go out to the financial donations of the Korean Defense Ministry and Hongsun Oriental Medicine of Korea. Finally, a special appreciation goes out to Defense Minister Kim Dong Shin of Korea and the Korean Veterans Association for hosting a dinner for seminar participants and to the Chairman of Lee Brothers, Mr. Sung Man Lee, for hosting a lunch. Finally, this seminar would not have been possible without the dedication of Dr. Hugo Wheegook Kim, Coordinator of this seminar, in his organization and mobilization of financial support. I would like to express a heartfelt thanks to him on behalf of this audience.

Some may wonder why we discuss the Korean War even after 50 years time has passed. The Korean War was fought by the UN and 45 free countries under the UN banner. This war has not ended. It is still under a temporary cease-fire agreement and could become a keg of explosives that could disrupt not only East Asia but also world peace. The lives of over 35,000 U.S. soldiers and 70 million Koreans, including those in the North, and huge resources which might be used for development of Korean peninsula come could under hostage of war.

This seminar aimed to bring some perspective to the war from the Korean side; Koreans were major victims as much as they were main participants of the war. War impacted every sector of Korean society. However, while the war caused much destruction, it also brought new constructions and visions. Threats still loom large, on the other hand. North Korea prides itself that it is the 4th largest military might in the world as it recently threatened the South that it could instantly turn the South into a "sea of flame" if it decided to do so. The Korean War perhaps taught South Koreans that the unification of a divided Korea is only viable through peaceful means. Because many foreign lives and resources were sacrificed for the war, future unification efforts in Korea may not only involve Koreans.

We hope this seminar will bring a new dimension of characteristics to the Korean War and increase understanding not only between the two sides of Korea but also for other countries as well. We realize that the seminar may limit further discussion due to time constraints. However, we hope this discussion can be expanded in the next opportunity. We hope you did not experience too many inconveniences during the last two days and had a pleasant stay in Washington. God bless your future and pray your safe return. Thank you very much.

July 23rd, 2001      Ung Soo Kim, Chaiman of ICKS