

World Freedom Institute Presents 'Positive Alternative'

Neil Salonen

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To European One World Crusade Members



FLF President Neil Salonen

Tarrytown, NY -- FLF's World Freedom Institute held its first major training seminar of the year on January 29, when it conducted a special program to clarify the status of the ideological struggle in America for a group of more than 100 young interfaith missionaries from Europe.

The missionaries are part of the One World Crusade, which is bringing missionaries from throughout the world to America for evangelical training, intercultural exchange, and work against Communism.

FLF was asked by crusade organizers to create a program which would introduce the Europeans to the political and ideological climate in which they will be working in America.

The program consisted of two lectures, one contrasting Communism with FLF's Unification Ideology, and one detailing the activities, interrelationships, and power struggles within Communist led groups in America today. In addition, FLF President Neil Salonen briefed the students on FLF activities and offered guidelines for effective action in the field.

The training of the European missionaries was seen by the WFI staff as a significant event, since most of the Europeans will be working on or near campuses where they will confront radical opposition. Crusade Commander David S.C. Kim said that his members were often harassed by radicals, especially when the missionaries spoke directly about the conflict between Marxism and religion. The Europeans will be joining an approximately equal number of Americans on ten mobile bus teams scattered throughout the nation, Mr. Kim added.

The Europeans are from six nations: England, Germany, Austria, France, Italy and Holland. Several of them said they had been born or had lived in Communist-controlled Eastern European countries before coming to the West.

The Crusade was begun last year by Mr. Sun Myung Moon, who is also the founder of the Unification Church. Its members included young people from all races, 26 countries, and widely divergent walks of life. Their goal, according to Mr. Kim, is to create an "international movement for moral and spiritual regeneration" and thus provide a "constructive alternative" to the false promises of international communism.

The Freedom Leadership Foundation intends to place increasing emphasis on World Freedom Institute programs. Mr. Salonen pointed out that the Foundation sees the work of the WFI its most important in the long run, because the WFI accomplishes the task of not only educating, but also of gaining a real commitment on the part of young people to work for realizing the universal democratic ideals upon which America is founded.

To High School Students The World Freedom Institute, the educational arm of FLF, opened a new offensive in the war for the minds of America's youth. FLF research Coordinator James Cowin spoke six times on Feb. 14 to a combined total audience of roughly six hundred students at George Washington High School in Alexandria, Virginia, on a topic: "FLF Approach to American Involvement in World Affairs."

His presentation was arranged by Miss Ellen Tabb, an English teacher at the school who had attended last month's FLF reception for the South Vietnamese Congressmen. An anti-war reporter for the New York Times had spoken at her school, and she was looking for a group who could effectively present the opposite point of view. She was introduced to FLF Program Coordinator Gary Jarmin, and arrangements were made for an FLF speaker.

Cowin discussed the dilemma which US leaders faced in deciding foreign policy. Should the US go along with the current world trend toward "easing tensions" and accelerate the pullback of US troops from Europe and Asia in spite of the constant pressure by the Communists? Or should we reemphasize our commitment to defend free nations against Communist moves in Southeast Asia or elsewhere? Cowin

noted that strong voices in the US advocate the pullback policy. He declared, however, that the US refusal to resist the Communists "would be the worst thing that ever happened to civilization."



James Cowin lectures

If the world did become Communist, he asserted, mankind would suffer enormously. According to Cowin, the Communist ideology, with its materialistic view of man's life and its doctrine that progress comes through struggle between opposing forces, insures that any government founded on Communist principles can have no real regard for human life. Because good is determined by what is good for the Communist revolution, any opponent of Communism can be disposed of as a worthless outcast.

Examples of Communist brutality mentioned by Cowin included the Viet Cong program of assassination on South Vietnamese union leaders, North Vietnamese shelling of refugees fleeing An Loe and Quang Tri provinces, and the suffering of intellectuals, Jews and underground Christians in the Soviet Union. A large display prepared by the Russian-American Committee for the Defense of Believers and Victims of Persecution in the USSR illustrated the hopes and sufferings of Soviet dissidents such as Alexander Solzhenitsyn, General Pyotr Grigorenko, and Yuli Daniel.

Cowin advocated continued resistance to Communism with the aim of eliminating the Communist ideology. He stressed the FLF view that the Communists can be defeated without a world war if Marxism-Leninism can be decisively proven false and if democratic nations are willing to work sacrificially to proclaim to the Communists the validity of the ideals of progress through cooperation and a civilization based on ethical values. The effectiveness of such an approach has already been proven, according to Cowin, because of the Communist fear of the ethical concepts of religion. Cowin called the underground Christians "the greatest single threat to Communism" because of their emphasis on brotherly love and because they risk their lives to convert Communists. "This is why," said Cowin, "out of thirty million believers in the Soviet Union, over a million are estimated to be incarcerated in prisons, concentration camps, or insane asylums."



European trainees

Cowin said that the FLF's Unification Ideology, which measures the strength of civilizations by the strength of human relationships rather than by the abundance of material resources, can have even greater power in the West because people are free to try to satisfy their higher needs for truth, goodness, love and beauty. If enough Westerners are so dedicated that the Communists cannot possibly kill them or frighten them away from their goal, the Communists would be converted.

Cowin emphasized that the Communists are human beings seeking love and peace, and that disillusionment with Communist ideology in Communist nations is widespread because Communists find that it does not fulfill their own ideals.

Reactions to the speech were mixed; the students were clearly challenged by the FLF ideas. Many were unfamiliar with Communist ideology. All had grown up in an atmosphere of

"radical chic," where the US government was clearly the culprit in causing world tension. A few commented that Cowin was "biased" against Communism because he did not say good things about it. A "balanced view" they thought, was necessary.

Other students, however, were inspired by the example of the underground Christians. They asked if the underground was effectively organized and if there was a chance of overthrowing the Communist regime. Many were intrigued by the idea that Communism could be defeated without a world war and asked about FLF activities.

Cowin considered the presentation a major step forward because of its effort to present FLF as an organization as well as FLF views.