

Unification Church Responds to Falsehoods in The New York Times

Neil Salonen
March 19, 1978

The New York Times
229 West 43rd Street
New York, New York

Dear Sirs:

I am writing this letter to officially protest the statements in your paper on Thursday, March 16 (Richard Halloran: Unification Church Called Seoul Tool) and Sunday, March 19 (Week in Review) which are biased in their selectivity, misleading in their incompleteness and have already caused painful, unjustified humiliation to the millions of members of the Unification Church worldwide.

I have instructed our attorneys to take aggressive legal action to recover damages in the amount of \$10 million, which in itself could never undo what your vicious libel has done. Your Richard Halloran failed to follow basic reporting ethics or even common decency by carrying the Unification Church response to an unevaluated, tentative 1963 CIA report which is absolutely false. His re-publication of that unevaluated document and characterization as fact has done our organization irreparable harm. This could have been avoided even if he had checked the file of the New York Times which must be filled with materials we have given to you over the years. In fact, your Eleanor Blau of the Times is the only reporter for a major American newspaper to have had an extensive personal interview with Reverend Moon himself in 1972.

As a result, the incredible humiliation to our members in Japan, where your incompetent reportage was printed as fact, cannot be easily vindicated. -- I have received calls from all over the country and Canada asking in shock about reports of that article.

Has Mr. Halloran, operating for so long almost as a conspiracy with such as Mr. Mausey (formerly of the Fraser Subcommittee staff) become so biased that he is unable to continue reporting two sides of every issue? Has the Times become vindictively angry that the Unification Church has continued to grow and prosper despite your continued negative reporting of our activities? Do you have the moral courage to take steps to rectify this outrage?

I am anxiously awaiting your reply.

Sincerely yours,

Neil Albert Salonen
President