

## 74 Couples Blessed in Marriage at the World Mission Center in New York

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Reverend and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon officiated at the largest Unification Church group wedding outside of Korea on February 21 at the World Mission Center. Seventy-four couples, representing eleven nations, received their blessing in a beautiful ceremony in the Terrace Room.

While all participants had served in the Unification Church for a minimum of three years, many were members of long standing. Ninety-nine participants were Japanese, and twenty-seven American. Other nations represented were Korea, Austria, Germany, Holland, France, Italy, Ireland, Greece, and England.

The wedding began at 3 p.m., as Col Bo Hi Pak gave an opening address. Bridesmaids and grooms, representatives from former blessings, formed an aisle for Rev. and Mrs. Moon and the participants. Rev. and Mrs. Moon entered and took their positions as officiators while the Go-World brass band and the New Hope Singers provided musical accompaniment. The couples marched into the room, passing in front of the officiators and into their positions in three columns facing Rev. and Mrs. Moon.

Then Rev. Moon asked the wedding vows in Korean, to which the participants responded in unison with a resounding "Ye!" (Yes) Rev. Moon then prayed, asking God's blessing upon the couples. After rings were exchanged, Rev. Moon pronounced them man and wife. Flowers and gifts were presented to Rev. and Mrs. Moon, and the ceremony closed with three cheers of "Mansei!"

Rev. and Mrs. Moon then posed for photographs with each couple.

After the ceremony, Col. Pak introduced visiting Church dignitaries from abroad. Then he told the guests: "We took special consideration in planning a noble, dignified, and colorful wedding. This is the principle wedding held outside of Korea, and it will set the tradition for those to follow for the future." The blessing, he explained, was made possible by the victories of 1976. "This is a really great day," he said, "one of the most beautiful that I have ever seen."