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News From Washington, D.C.

This report from Alexa Altomare gives us a report of all that has taken place in Washington, D.C. since Master's arrival:

His Arrival -(March 12, 1965)

. . . Everything was prepared: the arch of flowers with our Divine Principle symbol proudly sitting on it through which He would step; the guest book which He would sign, the beautiful bouquets of red and white flowers wrapped in gold paper for Him and Mrs. Chei; even keys had been made up to present to Him -- a key to Arlington House, the Fellowship House, the Jhoon Rhee Institute, and New York Center, and the key to Washington . . .

The Welcoming Program -(March 12)

. . . Joe Badra . . . began the program with a welcoming speech . . . He spoke of how he felt when driving into Washington from Martinsburg, West Virginia carrying in his car the Man in whom heaven and earth met, the greatest Man to ever live. The car was decked with flags as it flew down the highways and circled the streets of Washington. . . A Man greater than all the kings and statesmen of the world put together was present in the world's most famous capitol; a Man whose mission it was to save the world, and yet not one person they passed on the streets knew who was in the car driving past them. It broke my heart to hear Joe say, "but nobody knew Him." How little we have done that so few would know what Man was walking amongst us. . . .

The Second Day -(March 13)

. . . In the evening approximately 35 gathered at the Fellowship House to have dinner with our Master being the guest of honor. . . Our Master sang and led us in many songs. Anyone and everyone who had any musical talent participated and Gordon explained the significance and procedure of blessing Sacred Grounds. . .

Blessing of Sacred Grounds -(March 14)

. . . We went to the Eclipse, a park behind the White House, to bless the ground. A civil rights demonstration was scheduled to be held at the White House later on that day so policemen were keeping everyone away from the grounds, but it seemed they didn't even see us. The ceremony for the blessing of the ground was beautiful.

Then we proceeded to the Capitol lawns to bless ground there. The scene was very solemn as we blessed the ground of the United States. It was a magnificent sight to see our Master

perform such a great work for heaven with the Capitol building looming up behind Him. As He prayed for our country, the bells began to chime, "God Bless America."

Open Meeting -(March 14)

. . . Sixty gathered at Arlington to listen to the message of our Master, including a newspaperwoman from a Northern Virginia newspaper who later wrote an article in the newspaper about the gathering. . .

. . . There were many questions and much advise He gave that evening. He particularly stressed the necessity for unity and uniformity in the U.S. centers. He was very serious when He spoke of this and even angry. He said if we were following Him instead of our missionary leader, there would be unity. At that time I caught a glimpse of how much heartbreak we in the United States have caused Him. . . .

. . . Everyday we were more and more astounded with His unsurpassable wisdom and love. The overwhelming realization that such a Man actually existed and was right there with us was almost too much to bear. Every moment with Him is like being in heaven. We are blessed beyond imagination.

His Return -(April 1)

. . . It was a joyful day when we drove out to Dulles International Airport to welcome Him to Washington again after finishing His tour of the United States. He was accompanied by Mrs. Chei and Mr. Nishikawa. . .

Parent's Day -(April 2)

Of all the days in my life, Parent's Day 1965 will remain as one of the most memorable. We arose very early in the morning and went to Arlington House where the morning ceremony would be held. We donned white robes and then knelt on the floor praying and softly singing hymns as we waited for our Master to come downstairs and begin the ceremony. It was an unbelievably beautiful sight to see everyone dressed in those robes of pure white, but even this sight was nothing in comparison to our Master dressed in a magnificent robe of gold. He was truly the Sun in all its glory, the Son of God. The tears poured down our cheeks as He made His obeisance before our Heavenly Father. It was the most beautiful sight I ever saw in my life. I will never forget the moments of that morning.

Then the greatest privilege of our lives came when we all together bowed before Him. Col. Pak gave a deeply moving prayer which spoke of what suffering our Master had to bear in order to bring this day to pass. The ceremony was closed with a stirring prayer by our Master.

. . . That evening . . . our Master gave a talk on the significance of Parent's Day, Children's Day, Day of All Things, and He said that in the future another day would be added called God's Day.

The festivities continued after the meeting where there was a Christmas tree with presents from each of us for our Master under it. Gerald Johnson of Chicago greatly livened the atmosphere with his guitar. Special tribute was paid to the first three American disciples; Eileen Welch, Doris Walder, and Pauline Phillips who were all present that evening.

The next evening was set aside to welcome our Japanese brothers to Washington, D.C., Mr. Nishikawa and Daikan Onuki. . .

Tournament Day -(April 10)

We arose bright and early that morning, particularly those of us who would be on the National Karate Championship float in the Cherry Blossom Parade . . . It was so exciting to sit up there and wave to all the people as we passed by. Many were apathetic and I felt like our Father must feel when He calls to us but we do not respond.

. . . When we approached the place where our Master was seated we lined up on one side of the float facing Him, and as we passed we all bowed to Him.

. . . Over 3,000 spectators attended the program. Following the tournament, we went to Arlington House to celebrate the success of the evening. Our Master was very happy that evening so the tournament must have been a huge, heavenly success!

Training Program -(April 12 - May 2)

The training program started out to be forty days but it was changed to 21 days. The daily schedule during the training program was as follows: up at 6:00 A.M., eat breakfast, then have a lecture. Lecturing done by either Col. Pak or Gordon for most of the morning, the afternoon left for witnessing and studying, and then in the evening another lecture. About four or five cycles were covered during the 21-day period. During the session twelve of us stayed permanently in the Fellowship House with many others staying for a few days at a time.

Now that the training program is over we have moved on to a different phase of training. In the morning the members practice lectures, afternoon is for studying and witnessing, and a formal lecture by Gordon is held in the evening. Through this program the members have been able to learn the Principle very quickly and are preparing to go out and start centers of their own as soon as possible. The training program is a long way from being perfected as yet but improvements are made daily and soon it will shape up into a definite and effective pattern.

Visit of Arthur Ford (April 21)

Another interesting thing that happened was the visit of Arthur Ford, the world famous medium from Philadelphia. He, Marcus Bach, Ruth Montgomery who is a Washington newspaperwoman and authoress, Dr. Edward Bauman who has a religious discussion program on TV and pastors one of the largest Protestant churches in the area and several other distinguished guests were present.

. . . Most of them were interested enough to take back reading material with them and the last report was that Ruth Montgomery was very impressed with the first chapter.

News From Portland, Oregon (May 1)

1) The weekend of May 1st was spent in celebration of the 11th anniversary of the Holy Spirit Association.

All the young people from the Seattle chapel as well as family from Eugene and St. Helens united for this memorable occasion. We had a wonderful time of fellowship, and it was a time of blessing and encouragement for all the family.

Friday evening we were thrilled as we read the San Francisco bulletin covering Master's journey throughout the United States. How we rejoice when we realize that our Father has His Sacred Ground established in all of the United States.

Saturday afternoon was spent in discussion. Mr. David Kim led the discussion directed toward the young people from Seattle. Many questions were asked and it was a time of strengthening for them. After the discussion, we all travelled to Mt. Tabor Park and had a wonderful time of prayer and praise at our Sacred Ground site. We closed our special time at our Sacred site with Mansei shouted three times; showing our joy and blessing in this small way.

Saturday evening was spent in dinner, with a special cake baked especially for the occasion. While we were feeding our physical man, we had a special feast for our spirit man. During the meal, the tape of Master's second meeting in San Francisco was played. What a tremendous message it is. I've read it several times as well as hearing the tapes several times, and I still am blessed abundantly when I hear His tremendous message to His American Family. We closed Saturday evening with slides taken by the Seattle family of Master's visit in our area, and movies by David Bridges of Master's first three days in San Francisco as well as His stay in our area. What love we felt for our Master as we saw Him again on film.

Sunday we invited a young man, whom we hope to have as a future member of our family, with us while we showed our Seattle family some beautiful scenic spots in the Portland area. We traveled to Bonneville Dam and Multnomah Falls. We closed this special time of fellowship with a favorite meal of Psalm. After that, Mr. David Kim, and David Bridges left for Eugene and back to their studies. Our Seattle family left for their battlefield; John Schmidli went back to St. Helens and our young man, Ralph, left for home with a sense of belonging to our family.

(May 9)

2) About 3:15 P.M. we received a long distance telephone call saying that the Karate Tournament of April 10th in Washington, D.C. would be on television at 4:00 P.M. on Channel 8, NBC television. How excited we were!! That gave us less than an hour to telephone all our family in this area, so they would not miss this thrilling experience.

The important moment finally arrived!! How wonderful to meet our wonderful brother Jhoon Rhee via Television, and to realize that this man, being interviewed by the announcer was a most dedicated young man in this faith. I searched the audience most anxiously looking for that Someone most special, and soon I found That Man for whom life is worth living and

sacrificing for. How wonderful to once again see our blessed Master Moon, even if it was just brief glimpses; also again we saw Mrs. Chei, what a blessed mother capacity for love she possesses. How we longed to shout to the world, that our Lord of the Universe was sitting on the front row, being seen by many countless thousands and going unrecognized by the multitudes. What a tragedy to realize our Lord is among us and yet unknown by the majority.

It was so very difficult to keep our minds and eyes on the Karate Tournament itself because we could not take our eyes off our Master.

How soon this moment was past!! Just thirty minutes of being with our family once again, even though it was via television. The time passed so quickly but it was a thrill. How we loved Jhoon Rhee, whom some of us have never met. Through his Karate school we know that many young men will find a new life in this New Age working for our Master and His New Truth.

Important Days to Remember!

May 24 - Gerald Johnson's birthday

June 1 - Dianne and Susanne Pitt's birthdays

June 5 - Eileen Welch's birthday

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