

Summit for Peace Assembly and One Million Rally: Freedom-loving nations must stand strong and united

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February 13, 2022

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I am honored to address the Summit for Peace Assembly and One Million Rally of Hope sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation and the Washington Times Foundation. Today, we gather to promote the cause of freedom and peace on the Korean Peninsula.

I want to thank the prime minister of Cambodia, Samdech Hun Sen, and former UN secretary general, Ban Ki-moon for chairing this wonderful event that brings together leaders from 157 nations representing government, business, faith communities and civil society.

So much has changed since the last World Summit was held in February 2020. Over the past two years, the coronavirus pandemic has inflicted heartbreak and hardship across the globe. Every nation on earth has been put to the test. Now, with bold leadership, groundbreaking partnerships, and the courageous resolve of individual citizens, mankind's victory over the coronavirus is closer than ever before.

As we undertake the urgent work of healing our nations and restoring our economies, we remember that our task is not merely to rebuild the world of the past but to forge a brighter future for all of our citizens. Beginning here on this storied peninsula.

I want to express my appreciation to *the Washington Times* -- a courageous voice for freedom in America and around the world, promoting faith, family and liberty for all. I want to thank the Universal Peace Foundation and especially Dr. Moon for faithfully devoting her life to the cause of peace, and for hosting us today.

On the mount overlooking the Sea of Galilee, Jesus said "Blessed are the peacemakers, they will be called children of God." Today, I commend you all for coming together at this global event to continue sowing the seeds of peace, knowing that in time we will reap a harvest of peace that will bless all the nations of the world.

During my four years as vice president, at home and abroad, I have seen firsthand that strong families, education, equal treatment under the law, and a recognition of the dignity and worth of every human life, born and unborn, is the foundation of true national greatness.

These are the values that have united the people of Korea and the United States for nearly seventy years. They are the same values that my father, US Army Lieutenant Ed Pence -- and freedom-loving Americans and Koreans just like him -- fought to defend in the Korean War.

They are the same values I worked to defend as vice president. In the seventy years since the guns of the Korean War fell silent, two Koreas have lived side by side. One prospering in the warm light of freedom. The other struggling under the weight of dictatorship and oppression. Over those decades, the United States and the Republic of Korea proved how much could be accomplished by nations that share a common commitment to democracy, free enterprise, free speech, strong family values, human dignity, religious liberty, the right to life and equality under the law.

I know I speak on behalf of millions of Americans when I say how proud we are to stand with people in the Republic of Korea, Japan and others across the region in defense of religious liberty. We believe that every human being must have the freedom to live, to work, and to worship according to their own conscience. With one voice, we condemn the repression of Christians, Jews, Muslims and other religious minorities taking place at this very hour in China and North Korea. We pray for an end to the persecution, and we call on world leaders to work together to bring justice for all who are, at this very hour, being persecuted for their faith.

We know that nothing is impossible with God. When nations work together openly and in good faith to

achieve the common good, we can achieve great strides for peace. That is exactly what we proved for four years under the Trump-Pence administration. Under our administration, the alliance between America, Korea and freedom loving nations across the Asia-Pacific grew stronger than ever before. Our commitment to our common defense remained unbreakable. We stood firm against common adversaries, even as we worked in good faith to turn adversaries into friends.



Together, we strengthened our historic alliance, improved our trading relationship, and reaffirmed America's commitment to support the Republic of Korea, Japan and our allies in the region. Lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula has eluded all efforts for decades.

We proved peace follows strength, but weakness arouses evil. And the resurgence of missile tests and provocations from Pyongyang are a testament to this truth, as are the ongoing actions by the People's Republic of China and by Russia.

Freedom-loving nations across the Asia-Pacific must stand strong and united in our commitment to peace and security. For while Beijing is basking in the Olympic limelight, China continues to tie international cooperation to demands that the world look the other way on their record on human rights, trade abuses, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and aggressive military maneuvers in the South China Sea.

Today with 100,000 Russian troops on the border of Ukraine, Beijing supports Moscow even as Russia supports China on Taiwan. Russia and China's deepening alliance should be cause for concern across the Free World. As the Chinese dragon and the Russian bear draw closer, peril looms for their freedom loving neighbors and the wider world.

Now more than ever, freedom loving nations must stand strong and call upon China and Russia to respect human rights, democratic principles, national sovereignty and to do their part to achieve the final and fully verified denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

While I hope the current American Administration will stand strong and build on the progress we made in the face of renewed belligerence from North Korea, Russian tanks on the border of Ukraine and China's warplanes flying into the Taiwan Straits. Let me assure friend and foe alike, that the American people will always stand for freedom. America will always be freedom's greatest champion. We will always stand with the Republic of Korea, Japan and all our allies for the peace and security of the Free World.

The dream of a united Korea is possible. We know the rich history of the Korean people, which stretches back to time immemorial, is the story of a proud people who have made immeasurable contributions to science, culture, art and commerce—and we know that story is far from over.

We also know that no oppressive regime can last forever. Inside every human heart is an unquenchable fire that burns to be free. Inside every human soul is an insatiable desire for freedom. Despite the many challenges we face, I remain supremely confident that a brighter future is on the horizon, for the United States, for the Korean people, for Asia, and for the world if we continue to have faith and stand with one another for freedom and security.

Times of crisis in our world have always been the times of greatest opportunity when we find ways to overcome our differences and cooperate together for a world of freedom, peace and equality for all.

To everyone participating in World Summit, thank you for the honor of addressing you today and thank you for your prayers. I urge you to keep working, keep striving, and never give up. As the Bible says, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Your labors on behalf of peace for the Korean people, the Asia-Pacific, and the world are not in vain. Thank you and may God bless you all.