

America and Religious Freedom

Sun Myung Moon

June 26, 1984

United States Capitol Building, Washington, DC, USA

Senate Constitutional Subcommittee Hearing on Religious Liberty



Photo date and location unknown

Honorable chairman, distinguished members of the Senate, ladies and gentlemen:

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to you for inviting me to speak at this Senate hearing on religious freedom. I want to also express my sincere gratitude, Mr. Chairman, for your support in favor of my appeal to the Supreme Court. Your noble deed to uphold the principle of constitutional rights of individuals will be long admired by millions of Americans.

America and freedom of religion

Since the Supreme Court refused to review my case, there has been a very strong protest by many members of the religious community. More than a thousand clergymen, Jewish, Christian and Muslim, have pledged to commit one week of their lives in prison with me in the name of religious freedom. It moves me deeply. I salute these champions of religious freedom.

I feel this occasion is historic. I am not just speaking to the United States Congress. I am speaking to history and before God.

God loves America. America's greatness does not lie in her vast resources or in her tremendous prosperity. It lies in the very spirit upon which this nation was founded. That is the spirit of "one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all." However, God's Will is not just one nation under God, it is one world under God. We are all brothers and sisters, one human family. When we all recognize God as our Father, this ideal can become a reality.

Without religious freedom, however, God cannot fulfill His ideal. The nation's founders understood that if you do not have religious freedom, you have no freedom at all. They risked their very lives to secure freedom of worship.

Now, that freedom of worship is in danger. A blind spirit of atheism and religious intolerance is found in America today, and this time there is no other "New World" to receive us as pilgrims. We have no choice

but to restore America as the land of religious freedom. If we do not, this nation will perish, and the world will perish.

I was called to come to America and carry out my mission

In 1971 God called me to come to America and lead a movement to revive the fervor of Christianity and restore the founding spirit of this nation. God has sent me to America in the role of a doctor and a firefighter. He has sent me to bring about a dramatic spiritual awakening. The survival of the entire world depends on America fulfilling its responsibility. America is the last bastion of freedom. For the last twelve years I have given my heart and soul and every drop of my sweat and tears for the sake of this nation.

In the process of fulfilling this mission, I have become controversial and in some quarters unpopular. And I have been persecuted. However, I am by no means the first religious leader to have experienced persecution.

Many of the major religious figures in the Judeo-Christian tradition have walked this path of suffering through persecution. Today, I am honored to follow the same tradition.

I believe that God's hope is for freedom on the earth, and the greatest threat to freedom today is totalitarianism, particularly in the form of communism, which systematically opposes freedom of religion. Communism has killed more than 150 million people. I myself suffered nearly to the point of death in a communist prison camp. Communism is the worst inhumanity in the world today.

Freedom has been retreating for the past decade. In 1975 freedom retreated from Southeast Asia. Millions of people perished. Nation after nation in Africa and Latin America has been communized. One-and-a-half billion people have fallen under communist tyranny so far. Now Central America, in the neighborhood of the United States, is the front line of the battle. I know that the enemies of freedom will not stop until they achieve their final goal: the conquest of this very nation, the United States of America.

Accomplishments during my twelve years in America

I supported Ronald Reagan for president because I hoped he would do God's Will to stop the spread of communism and truly bring this nation back to God and to her founding spirit. It is disappointing that under this man, who was elected with the tremendous support of the religious community, the state is encroaching more than ever on the affairs of the church. For the first time, ministers are being jailed. Truly, religious freedom is being dealt a devastating blow.

In the last twelve years, I have done everything I could for America. I have had just one goal in mind: to strengthen the moral fiber of America and enlarge her capacity to fulfill God's Will.

Through projects such as the International Religious Foundation, the New Ecumenical Research Association and the conferences on "God: The Contemporary Discussion," I have sought to bring teachers of all faiths together to better understand God and one another.

I have also worked to bring God's Will into the academic world. The International Cultural Foundation sponsors annual conferences on science and absolute values, and brings scholars together in organizations such as the Professors World Peace Academy, Paragon House Publishers and the Washington Institute for Values in Public Policy.

In the area of cultural expression, I have endeavored to reinforce the theme of reverence toward God. In the movie *Inchon*, for example, I have tried to portray the historic importance of General Douglas MacArthur, a great American devoted to God and humanity. It is vital for American young people to understand this heroic figure.

Because religious ideals need to be expressed in service to humanity, I initiated the International Relief Friendship Foundation and Project Volunteer.

To work toward the liberation of all people from totalitarian ideologies, I established the International Federation for Victory over Communism, the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles, and CAUSA International.

To set a standard of responsibility in the communications media, we founded the World Media Association and News World Communications, both of which publish several newspapers. One of these, *The Washington Times*, was created to present an alternative view of the news to the people of the nation's capital. This project alone has cost our movement more than \$100 million.

These projects have required a vast amount of financial resources, as well as the hard work and loving

sacrifice of committed church members. We have poured several hundred million dollars into America, because this nation will decide the destiny of the entire world. These contributions are primarily coming from overseas. The United States has been a recipient of these funds, not a source of them. I have acted in the firm belief that if America is lost, everything is lost. There is no other country God can turn to.

Religious persecution in the courts of America

When you understand the scope of my work, can you really believe I came to America to defraud the government of \$25,000? From the very beginning this was not a tax case. It has been an invasion by the government into the internal affairs of religion. They chose the Unification Church because they thought no one would come to our defense. However, this is where they miscalculated. The religious community of America knows that unless everyone is safe, no one is safe, that when one is threatened, all are threatened.

When the government abuses its authority, the consequences are fearsome. It was the Roman state that crucified Jesus Christ. In this country, it was the state that burned “witches,” persecuted Roman Catholics, shunned Jews and prolonged black slavery. It was the state that allowed Joseph Smith, founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to be killed by a mob while he was in prison. It is the state that is coming after me, and in the process violating the religious freedom of everyone. We must stop this trend now. If we do not, then who is next?

In the providence of God, the case of Reverend Moon has become a rallying point for religious freedom in the United States. I stand convicted for no other reason than my religious beliefs and practices. I am to be punished for being who I am. This has shocked and awakened the conscience of America. Many religious leaders and believers of all faiths have stood up in outrage. They are registering their protests. Most important of all, they are united. Their unity will ensure the survival of America.

A great confrontation

The greatest confrontation in the world today is not the United States versus the Soviet Union, capitalism versus socialism, or even democracy versus communism. It is faith in God versus the denial of God.

The communist world, based on atheism, has failed to fulfill the human dream. The free world, on the other hand, has become materialistic and has forgotten God, and it is helpless in the face of the grave world crisis. The world is dark with confusion. A new vision must emerge, a new worldview centered on God. I am teaching that worldview, which is based on God’s heart of love. I call it Godism. I proclaim that this ideal will provide a new solution to the world.

Godism can unite all religious people and all people of conscience. This worldview will bring unity among enemies and enemy nations. It will bring true freedom of the human spirit. This ideal will usher in the realization of the kingdom of God on earth.

This worldview, a system of thought comprehensive and electrifying, has led many people to a personal experience with God. The effect has been so dramatic that in some quarters it has been labeled “brainwashing.” This is the reason I have been misunderstood in some circles of the establishment and the media. The communists, who regard me as their archenemy, have exploited this misunderstanding in their attempt to destroy me.

In spite of the difficulties involved, I am honored to dedicate myself today to the preservation of religious freedom in this country. If I can raise a beacon warning Americans of the danger that lies ahead, then my sacrifice will serve a great purpose.

The issue today is the very survival of America and the free world. To assure this survival, I am willing to suffer any indignity, to go any distance, to do any labor and to bear any cross. I am even willing to give my life, if that would ensure that the nation and world would survive and do God’s Will.

God bless America

Today, I carry no animosity toward anyone. Jesus Christ modeled the tradition of forgiveness when he prayed on the cross for those who crucified him. I am upholding that tradition. I long ago forgave my accusers. I feel no hostility toward the United States government.

Instead I pray for this country. I thank God that He is using me as His instrument to lead the fight for religious freedom and to ignite the spiritual awakening of America in this most crucial hour of human history.

Mr. Chairman, once again, I thank you for this opportunity. I would like to conclude by saying, “God bless America.”