

PWPA and WFWP honor the 30th anniversary of True Mother's visit to China and Russia

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True Mother, "True Parents and the Completed Testament Age" (December 22, 1993, Taipei National Assembly Hall)

To commemorate the 30th Anniversary of True Mother's historic speeches in China and Moscow, PWPA and WFWP jointly hosted an academic symposium at 10:00 a.m. on December 20 (11.27 H.C.) at the Plaza Hotel in Seoul. Under the title, "Ending the Cold War and a World of Peace: Focusing on speeches at the Great Hall of the People in China and the Kremlin Palace in Moscow," papers were presented discussing the meaning and significance of Dr. Han Hak-ja's important speeches in the communist world.

PWPA International President Dr. Thomas Selover pointed out that the timing of Dr. Moon's speech in China was significant because the Tiananmen Square massacre had occurred just a few years earlier, and in China people were not permitted to speak about it openly. However, Dr. Moon's speech included a call for healing which the people of China much needed.

Korean PWPA President Song Gwang Seok explained, "Even though Dr. Han's speeches at the Great Hall of the People and the Kremlin Palace made a significant contribution to hastening the end of the cold war, not much effort has been made to draw attention to that contribution." He continued, "This is the first academic symposium that focused on her 1992 speech at the Great Hall of the People and her 1993 speech in the Kremlin palace."

In her presentation, WFWP International President Julia H. Moon stated, "It has been 30 years since political philosopher Francis Fukuyama assessed that communism had collapsed and liberal democracy had been victorious in the struggle between these major economic systems, and we now find ourselves facing talk of a 'new cold war.' While clinging to its communist ideology China has developed into a world power, and Russia, the center of the former Soviet Union, is moving further and further from democracy." She continued, "It is significant that we are taking time to study the special messages of peace Dr. Han brought to China and Russia in the early 1990s, when they were the central pillars of the communist world, to see how they relate to the spirit of the times."

Speaking on the topic, "Evaluation and implications of Dr. Han Hak-ja's Special Lecture in China," Professor Jeong Si-gu of Sunhak UP Graduate University stated, "Since the 1960s Dr. Moon Sun-myung

and Dr. Han Hak-ja have been seeking to realize their dream to bring a new message of Godism to China, which has been a bastion of materialistic communism since the 1960s. Their dream is to transform China into a nation of Godism and that it can be a country where Eastern and Western cultures can harmonize, creating a new Pacific civilization." "Also," he continued, "through her speech, Dr. Han Hak-ja revealed to the women of China the significance of the 'age of women,' not only informing them of the advent of the age but also the importance of their involvement and contribution in changing China's values to bring them in line with the 21st century."

Sunmoon University Professor Kim Minji gave a presentation on "Evaluation and prospects for Dr. Han Hak-ja's Special Lecture in Russia," saying, "If we consider the progress and flow of the women's movement in Russia during the transition period, we can see that Dr. Han's lectures in 1992 and 1993 gave the women leaders of Russia's NGOs a new vision for peace. We can see the women of Russia taking to heart her message in Russia, 'We must open a new age when women lead the way to peace,' by observing the sensation Russian women caused by winning 30 seats in the 1993 Russian general election. Dr. Han's lecture added to the momentum to connect to a world of peace, coming at a time when Russian women were building international networks and connections through seminars and meetings."

In the discussion that followed, Dankook University Professor Kim Jin-ho and Academy of Korean Studies Professor Woo Pyeung-kyun stated, "Dr. Han Hak-ja's lecture in China was a historical achievement that contributed to economic and social development in China. We must expand the role of global governance by groups like WFWP to end the war and bring lasting peace in our global village."

In his general review of the symposium, former Seoul National University of Education President Kim Ho-seong said, "In this difficult time when the Korean Peninsula is entering a new cold war period, it is timely to examine and analyze Dr. Han's message on how to build peace."



(from the top left) Academic Symposium to Commemorate the 30th Anniversary of Dr. Han Hak-ja's International Speaking Tour