

Korea: Optimism Cannot Outweigh Caution

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North Korea has been much in the news of late, and the initial cooperation between north and South in seeking to reunite the approximately 10 million families divided since the Korean War has stimulated a great deal of speculation about a new "conciliatory" North Korean attitude, detente and peaceful reunification.

Regular readers of the Rising Tide are all too familiar with the deception that has characterized North Korean "peace offensives" in the past. While sincerely hoping for the earliest possible reunification of divided Korean families -- not to mention the tragically severed Korean nation itself--we cannot allow ourselves to be fooled by a switch in the communists' rhetoric or, as we were before the Korean War when they issued a "Plea for peaceful Reunification" at the same time that they were preparing their brutal assault on Seoul.

The invariable North Korean line before 1972 stated that "the DPRK's (North Korean) stand on peaceful reunification is based on anti-imperialist struggle and has nothing in common.... with the theory of 'peaceful transition' of the social system." Since North Korean has a history of aggression and still defines itself as a Marxist-Leninist nation, and since Marxist-Leninist ideology officially condones both lying and the breaking of agreements if it further the Revolution, the new maneuver of the North Korean Communists must be viewed with at least as much caution as optimism.

We have outlined their goals before in the pages of The Rising Tide: 1) to force a withdrawal of all U.S.-U.N troops from Korea; 2) to discredit the Republic of Korea in the U.S. and elsewhere through a well-financed propaganda campaign already under way; 3) to gain support among the people of South Korea through "people-to-people" interaction, taking advantage of the unparalleled North Korean system of indoctrination and control of its population and to establish dominion in the South through Vietnam-style revolution financed and directed from the North and later through the manipulation of "united front" politics in a coalition government.

In fact, the only significant policy change which the "new" North Korean attitude suggests is that the communists may now attempt to take over the South through a coalition government without direct military confrontation, provided that the United States would be naive and immoral enough to force South Korea to accept a coalition government on the communists' terms. The fact that the communists are now willing to deal directly with the ROK government is really of little consequence in the long run. Their ultimate strategy of conquest remains the same.

America in recent months seems to have been willing to sacrifice the interests of smaller nations for the sake of big-power detente and domestic priorities. But if America is to fulfill her mission of sacrificial service and leadership in the struggle against the tyranny of Communism, that trend must be reversed. History has shown that not compromise and withdrawal from international responsibilities, but moral strength and courage alone furthers the cause of world peace in the face of tyranny and aggression.

No regime on earth has shown itself to be more tyrannical or aggressive than Communist North Korea. The Korean issue could well prove to be a final stage in the test of the American will.