Unification Church Missionary to New Zealand, Siegrun Kuhaupt banned

Grant Bracefield June 1975



Photo date and location unknown

Carrying the hearts of all New Zealand brothers and sisters, Siegrun Kuhaupt left for the World Rally for Korean Freedom. In her absence, however, New Zealand was struck a heavy blow when the government refused to issue her with a re-entry permit. Almost immediately telegrams poured in from all New Zealand centres to the Minister of Immigration.

Seven thousand signatures were collected in three days supporting a plea for Siegrun's re-entry. The government has now accepted a request to re-examine her application. Siegrun is at present waiting on a temporary visa in Australia for developments. Because her visa is only for two weeks we have requested that the Australian government prolong her stay until a decision comes through.

I arrived here in New Zealand June 15 from Korea where I had been working on PR for the IOWC team. On my arrival all members were gathered together for a three day workshop and signature gathering. In these three days we came to some important decisions.

We decided to close the Hamilton center because of financial strain caused by legal costs as well as transportation costs. It is also a good idea to give more spiritual support to the other three satellite centres so that overall membership will be given a good boost.

We were greatly blessed with the arrival of Mr. Hong and Mr. Choi from the II Hwa Ginseng Tea Company in Seoul. They spent nearly four days with us in which time many things were shared. Their visit was truly a wonderful experience and so significant in New Zealand's history in connecting Korea and New Zealand.

In Auckland, most of the outlets for the sale of ginseng were investigated. Many new ideas to improve sales came to light. We have now decided to open a Ginseng Tea House in Auckland and make this city the center of our activities with ginseng.

Mr. Hong took a deep interest in New Zealand honey. He has taken three pots home to Korea for sampling and will then inform us of his thoughts on importing honey from New Zealand.

If this happens it will be a very great blessing for New Zealand because it will mean that a physical connection of great importance will be made between Korea and New Zealand.

Another important decision was made and that was for the whole New Zealand family to experience door-to-door selling of ginseng. We tried this today with very good results. This will become a regular project with the aim of releasing members from outside jobs.

We want to establish a master plan for selling in New Zealand so that we can watch our progress in certain areas and if these areas are successful we can then concentrate more energy there.

We are now considering leaving our present rented premises and buying a house for a center. We are at present paying a very large rental and by having our own property we would save very much money. We are realizing now is the time to restore the physical world.

We are expecting a positive television program to appear soon. This program, filmed by a. New Zealand television crew, was half filmed in Korea and half in Wellington. Col. Pak and I were interviewed.

in Korea and Rev. Moon's speeches were filmed. The interviewers then asked us if we would fight for South Korean freedom from Communism. We answered with much power that we would give our lives for Korea. We are expecting this to be very shocking for New Zealanders and will open many new doors to expressing our views through the media.

Another new development is to witness door-to-door in the evenings. We are limited by the Wellington City by-laws in our witnessing in the city and so we will go out to people's homes. We aim to establish friendships with people, especially students, so that we can attract people to the centres in groups for lectures. This will be an experiment but we are sure of a great response.

To publicize our great victory on Yoido Plaza we have begun distributing copies of Korean newspapers which wrote about the Rally. All centres will approach media in their cities with copies of the newspapers and an introductory letter explaining more about the Rally and the New Zealand members' attitude. Our government and the opposition party will also receive copies.