

A Determined Man

A Portrait of Rev. Sun Myung Moon



1930

1940

1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

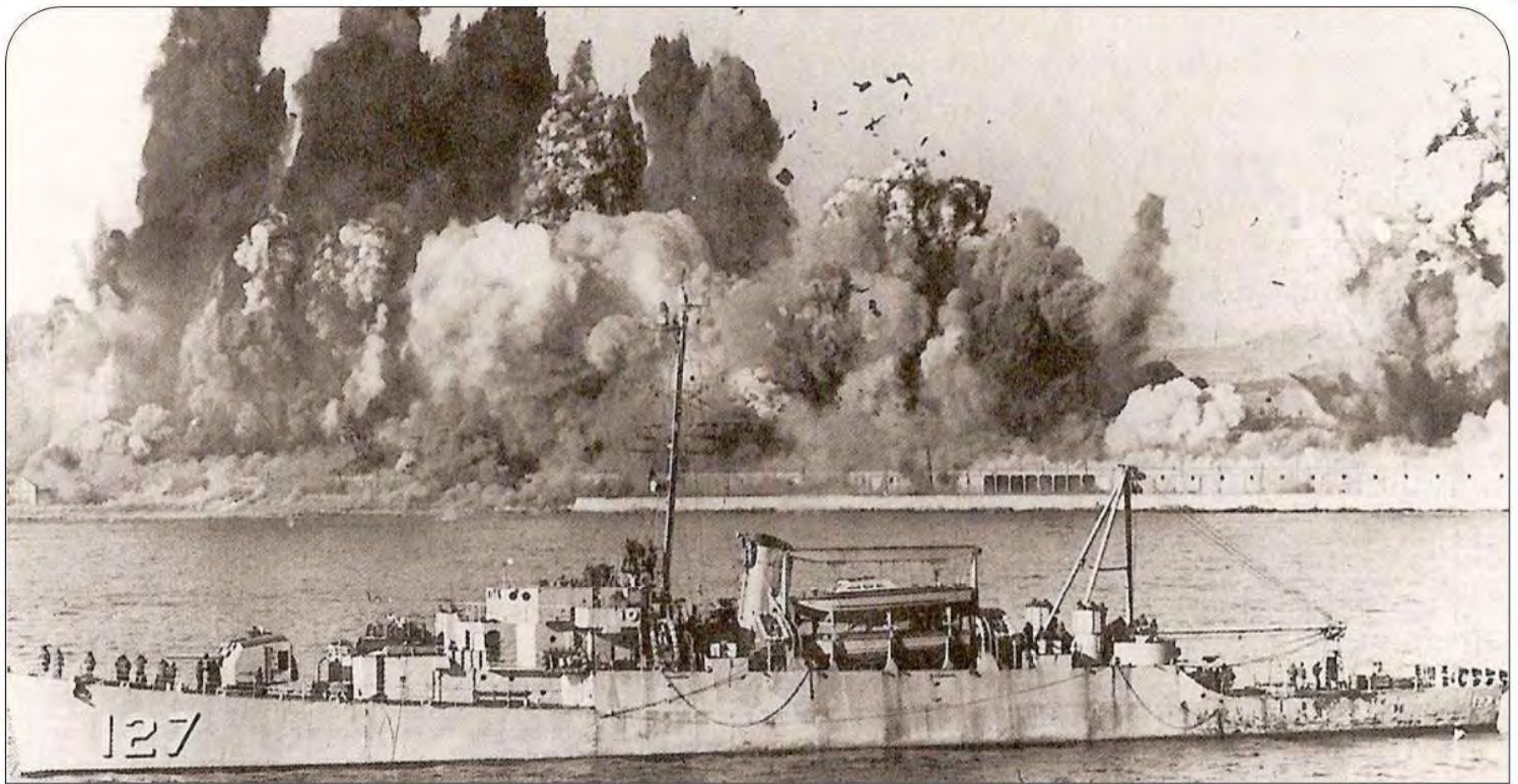


Korea, 1951

Fifteen years after starting his mission, things are not going according to plan.



His country lies in ruins, ripped apart by outside powers fighting the Cold War in Korea.



Relentless bombing has already destroyed 70%
of this poor nation's industry.



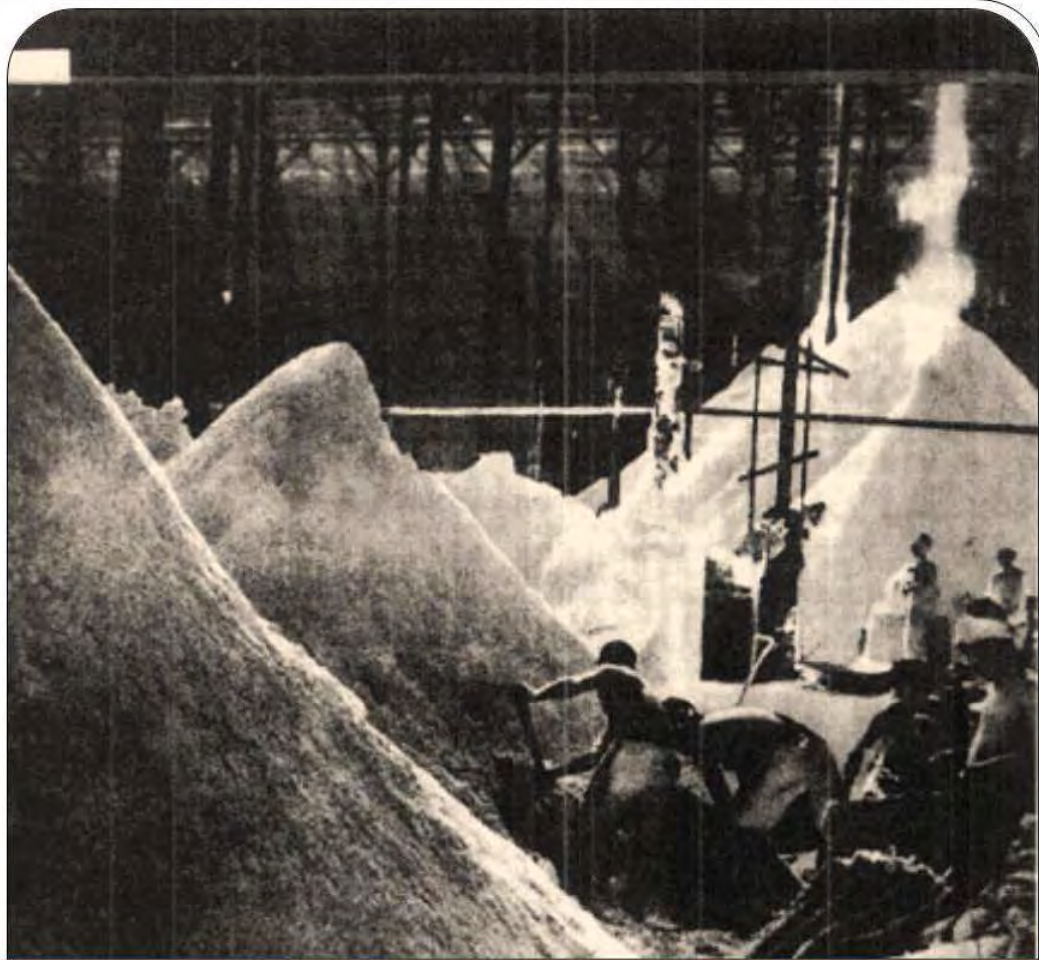
Virtually the entire population are now refugees.



The small group he built up has been destroyed.
Many of the members are either dead or defeated.



His own family rejected him after five years of separation. Half that time he was a prisoner hundreds of miles away from them.



And for three years he was in a concentration camp where 75% of the men died.



He has nothing to eat, and only one set of clothes. With nowhere to live, he builds a shack out of cardboard ration boxes on a lonely hill.



When he preaches of a future when the world
will come to Korea to learn peace . . .
even his friends think he might be crazy.



FLASHBACK: Spring, 1935

Sun Myung Moon is a 15-year-old schoolboy living in a small town in the hermit kingdom of Korea.



On Easter Sunday, he has a mystical encounter. In prayer, he hears Jesus ask him three things—



To unite Christianity
and all religions,

To build families of true
love and nations of true
love,



And to comfort the grieving heart of God.



After graduating school he joined other churches, first as a dedicated member then as a Sunday School teacher.



But when he tried to share his special mission from God, no one believed him, and he was alone. Then he was arrested and tortured by communist authorities.



Many men would have given up.

But he didn't.



Slowly, and against all the odds, the church began to grow as word spread about the ‘man teaching strange things’ in the shack on a hill.



“The place was built of mud and stone; the rain leaked through the roof. Then a young man came in.

‘Christianity and all religions of the world can be unified,’ he said. But I was suspicious.”

Hyun Shil Kang, a missionary who hoped to bring Sun Myung Moon into her church, but joined him instead.



At the end of the Korean War, the group moved to Seoul. When dozens of students from prestigious universities joined, the authorities were alarmed.



Rev. Moon and others were arrested and unjustly jailed for 'draft evasion' but released when it emerged he had been in a North Korean prison at the time.



After that, the group began to grow more quickly.



In 1960, he married Hak Ja Han, the young daughter of an early disciple.



Teaching that God's ideal is realized through the family, he began to bless his followers in marriage amidst rumors, misunderstanding and prejudice.



The numbers of the new couples grew quickly.



The church rapidly spread to the major cities, and he would spend most of the year visiting members.



But in the summer, they would all go back to the country to help members' families plant the rice.



He knew peace could not come working only in Korea. He sent missionaries to Japan and the USA, and later to 40 and then 120 countries.



The publication of the *Divine Principle* meant that the movement and its message could spread around the world.



In 1971 he came to America, answering a call to make it once again 'One nation under God.'



His arrival energized the small group of followers that had been created by early missionaries.



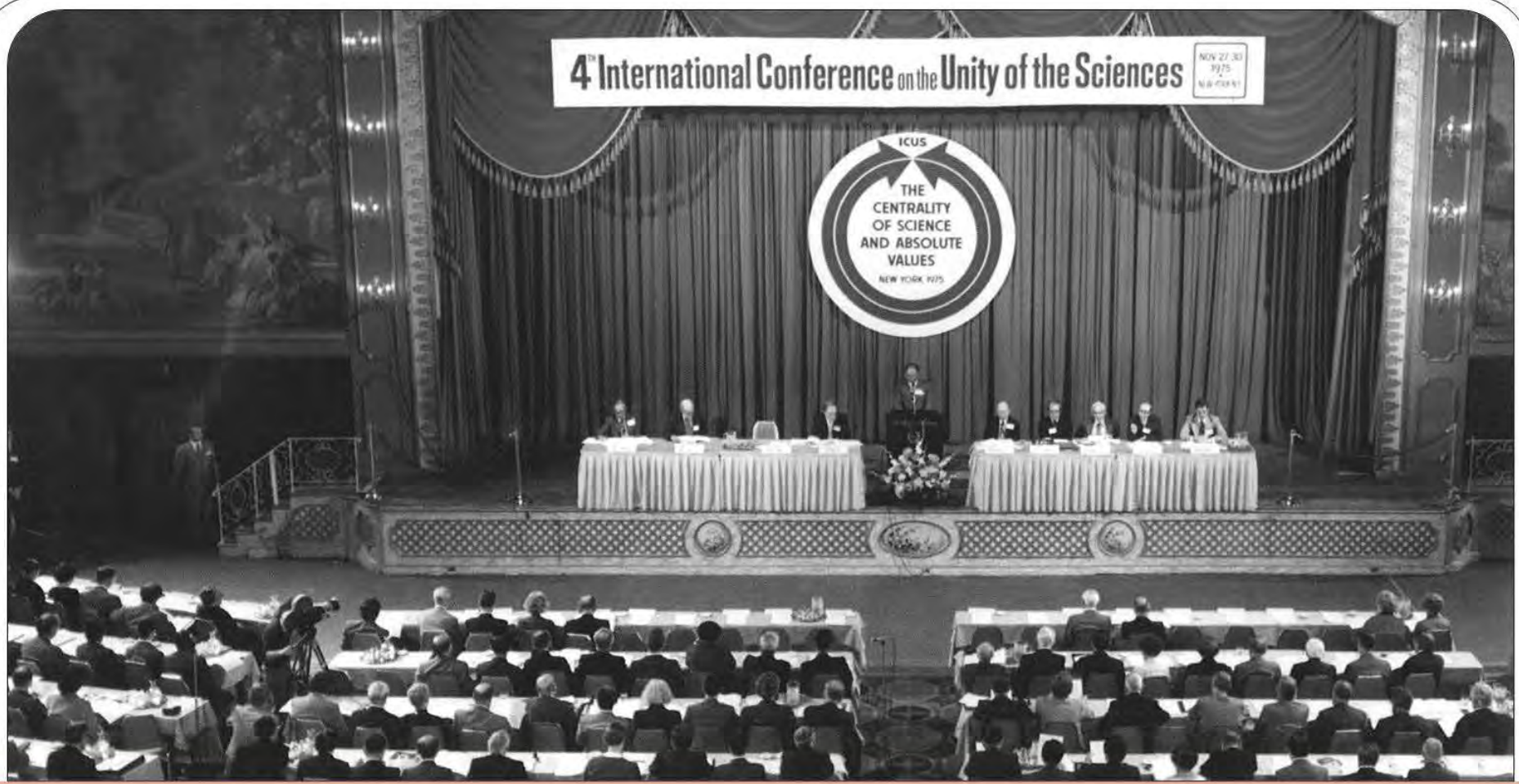
With the help of thousands of new members he began a high-profile campaign, “The Day of Hope.”



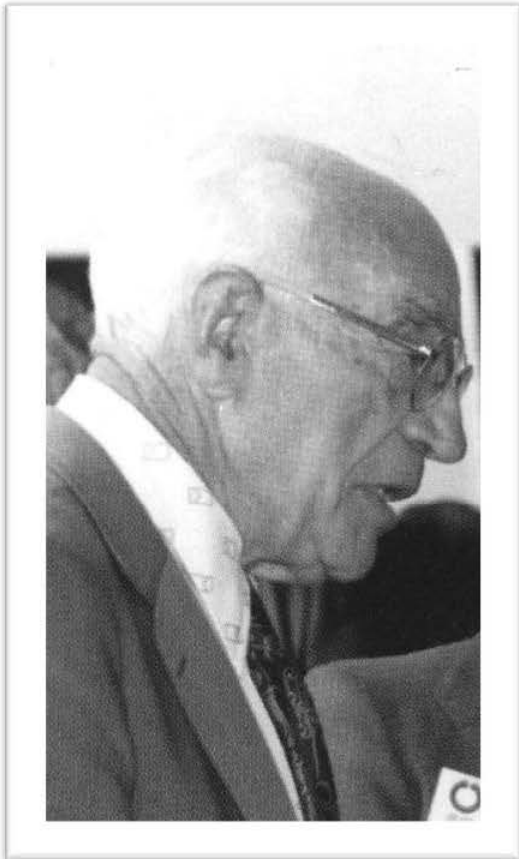
Though at the time he spoke almost no English, with the help of an interpreter he embarked on a 7-city speaking tour of the US, including Washington DC's Lisner Auditorium.



He then urged the United States to heal its divisions from the Watergate crisis and to 'Forgive, Love and Unite.'



He invested far beyond the religious mission, promoting the unity of the sciences, the arts, the development of the media, and much more.



“I greatly appreciated Reverend Moon’s deep concern for the present predicament of mankind.

He says intellectuals have an urgent responsibility in the task of rebuilding society with values as the supreme guide.”

Sir John Eccles [1903-97] Nobel Laureate, Physiology

ICUS Chairman in the 1970s



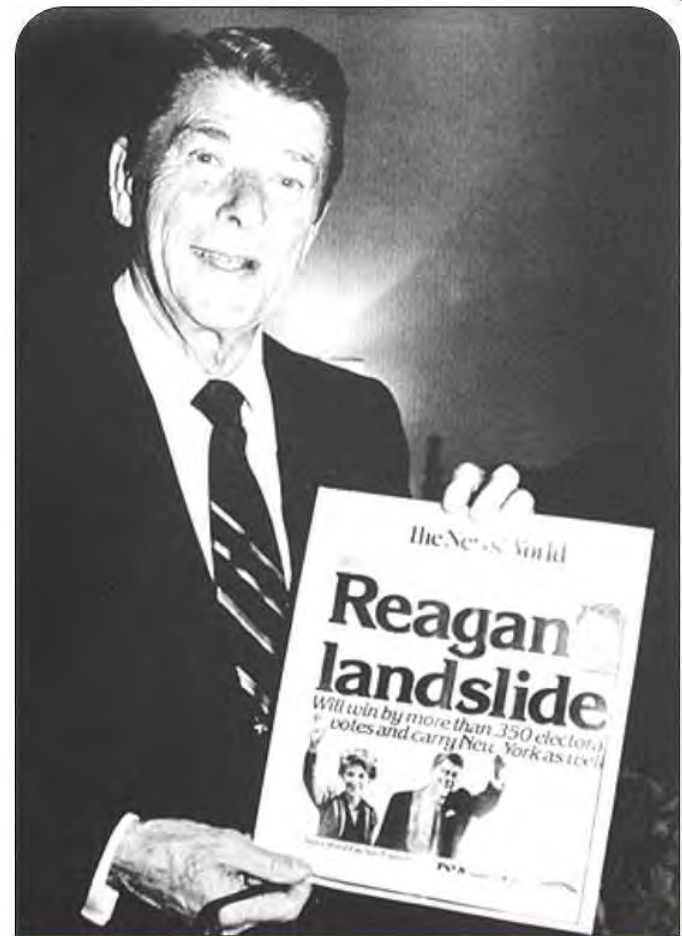
He declared “God’s Hope for America” in front of 300,000 people at the Washington Monument.



And created the Unification Theological Seminary
as an interfaith center of learning.



He would show the students how to meet God while fishing or even while just mending nets.



He started newspapers that exposed communism and secular humanism. Americans took notice.



“Rev. Moon came to America to launch his ministry based on our most cherished values. Our religious institutions, regardless of denomination, must play a pivotal role in these tasks.”

Gen. Alexander Haig, Supreme Commander of NATO 1975-79 and US Secretary of State, 1981-82



But all this came at the price of many new enemies. Earlier, US Congressman Donald Fraser (D-MN) falsely accused members of the movement of working for the Korean CIA.



Rev. Moon was indicted by a grand jury. The government offered him the choice to leave the country or face trial.



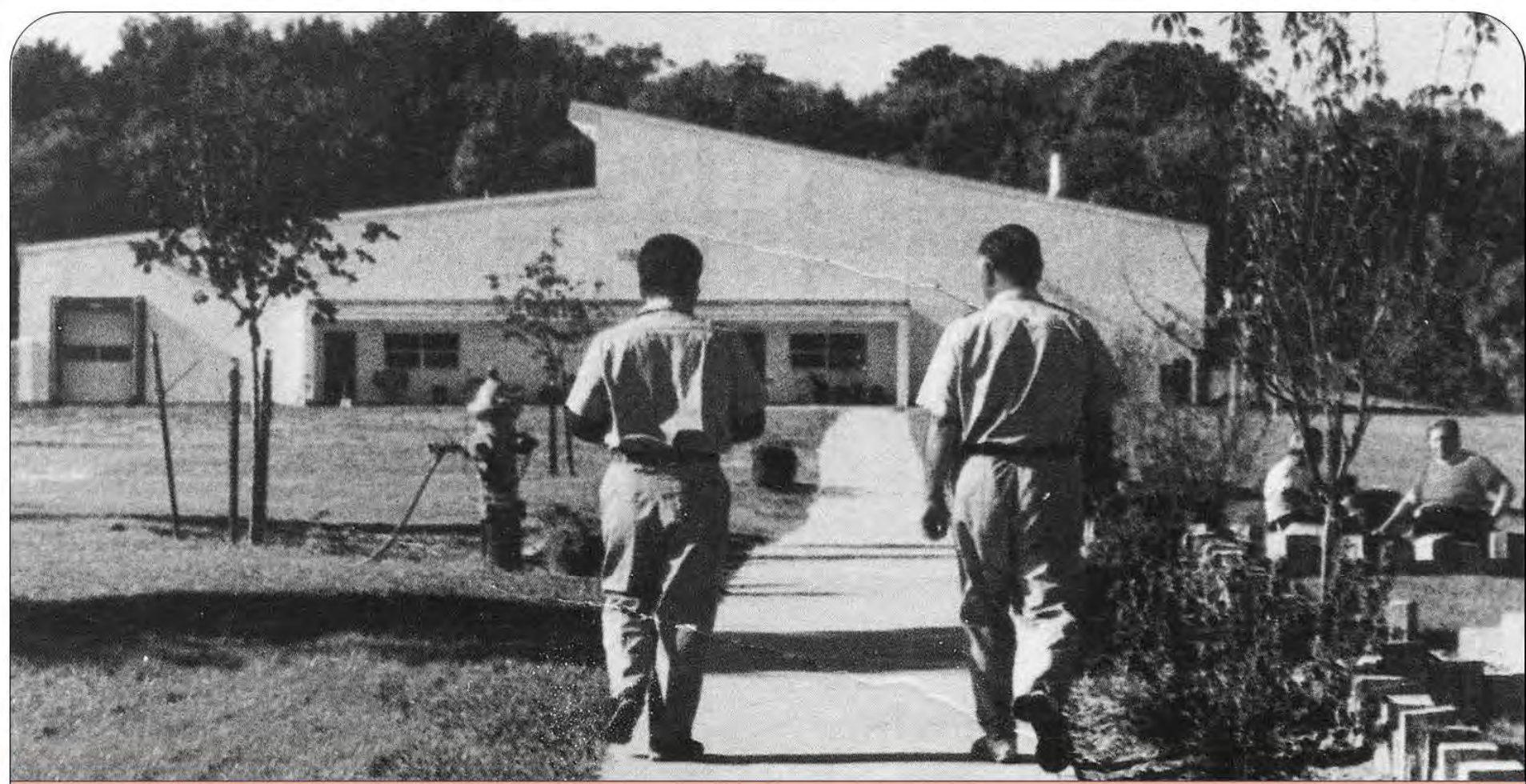
He was sent to jail at age 64 for not paying just \$7,000 in taxes, despite having invested tens of millions of dollars in the spiritual and moral renewal of the USA.



More than forty religious and civic groups filed protest briefs with the court, saying that as the head of a church, Rev. Moon was treated unfairly.



Painfully, that same year the Moons' second son, Heung Jin, was killed in a car accident.



Many men would have given up.

But he didn't.



By the time he was released, the tide of public opinion had turned decisively in his favor. A U.S. senator concluded:

“Injustice, rather than justice has been served in the case of Rev. Sun Myung Moon.”

*Senator Orrin G. Hatch, Chairman,
Judiciary Subcommittee, United States Senate*



“I know who the real Rev. Moon is. He is a man with an immense heart, a heart with room to love all human beings, a heart big enough to love sinners who injure him.”

Professor Morton Kaplan, University of Chicago Chairman of the International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences during the 1980s, after visiting Moon in prison



Encouraged by the support of many Christian ministers, he renewed efforts to solve the conflict between communism and democracy.



He sponsored fact-finding tours for Western journalists to visit the USSR, and vice versa.



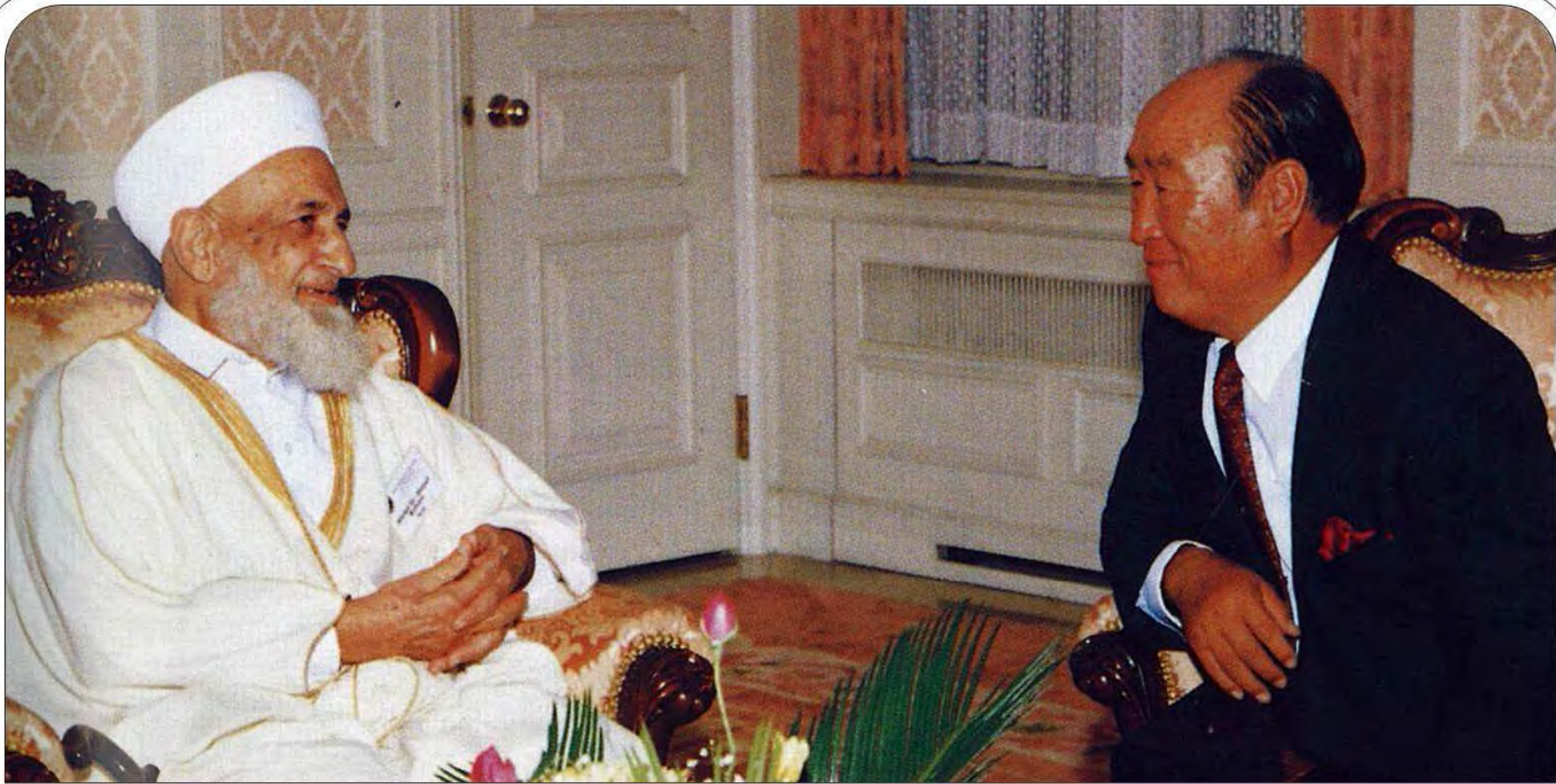
In 1990, he went to Moscow and began a friendship with Mikhail and Raisa Gorbachev.



A year later, he returned to Pyongyang after 40 years to meet the man who once tried to kill him.



Later the Little Angels' dancers brought his message of peace and hope to Moscow and Pyongyang.



He renewed his outreach to leaders of the world's faiths urging them to join with him to make peace.



And the Blessing ceremonies grew to include all people, beyond race, religion or nation.



His wife, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, launched the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP).



The WFP service projects are making the lives of the world's children better.



Especially with young people, who have been offering interfaith service programs for 25 years.

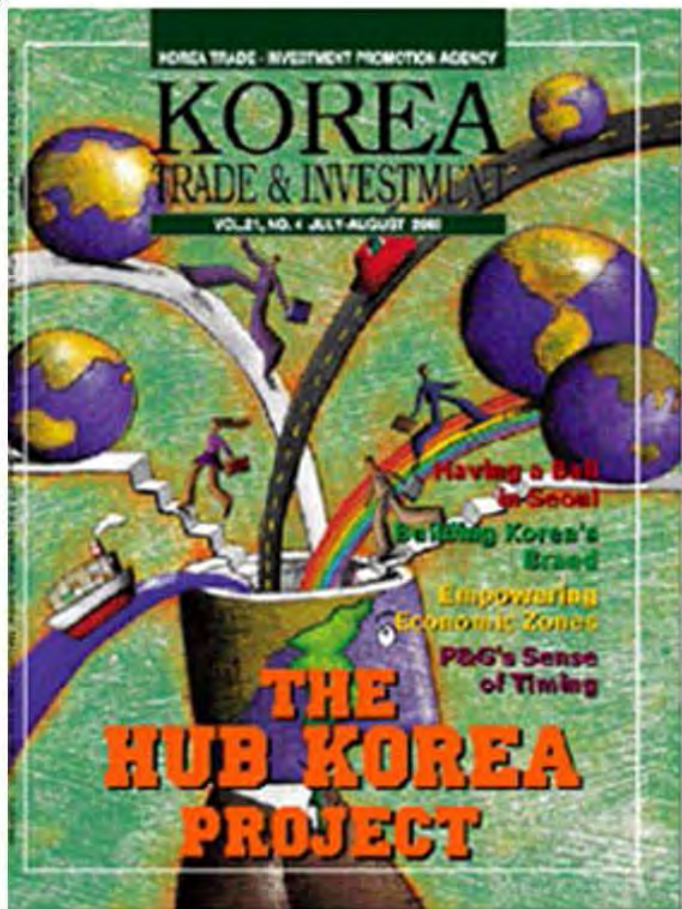


He rescued the University of Bridgeport from bankruptcy and turned it into a thriving institution that attracts students from around the world.



“He rescued the university from certain collapse. Thanks to Reverend Moon’s commitment, it did not fail.”

Dr. Richard Rubenstein, appointed President of the University of Bridgeport after the 1990 Professors’ World Peace Academy intervention



But then the Asian Financial Crisis struck, threatening many businesses that had supported his work.



Properties purchased and developed in South America for educational facilities and eventually an international “peace zone” or “peace community” were subjected to arbitrary government investigations.

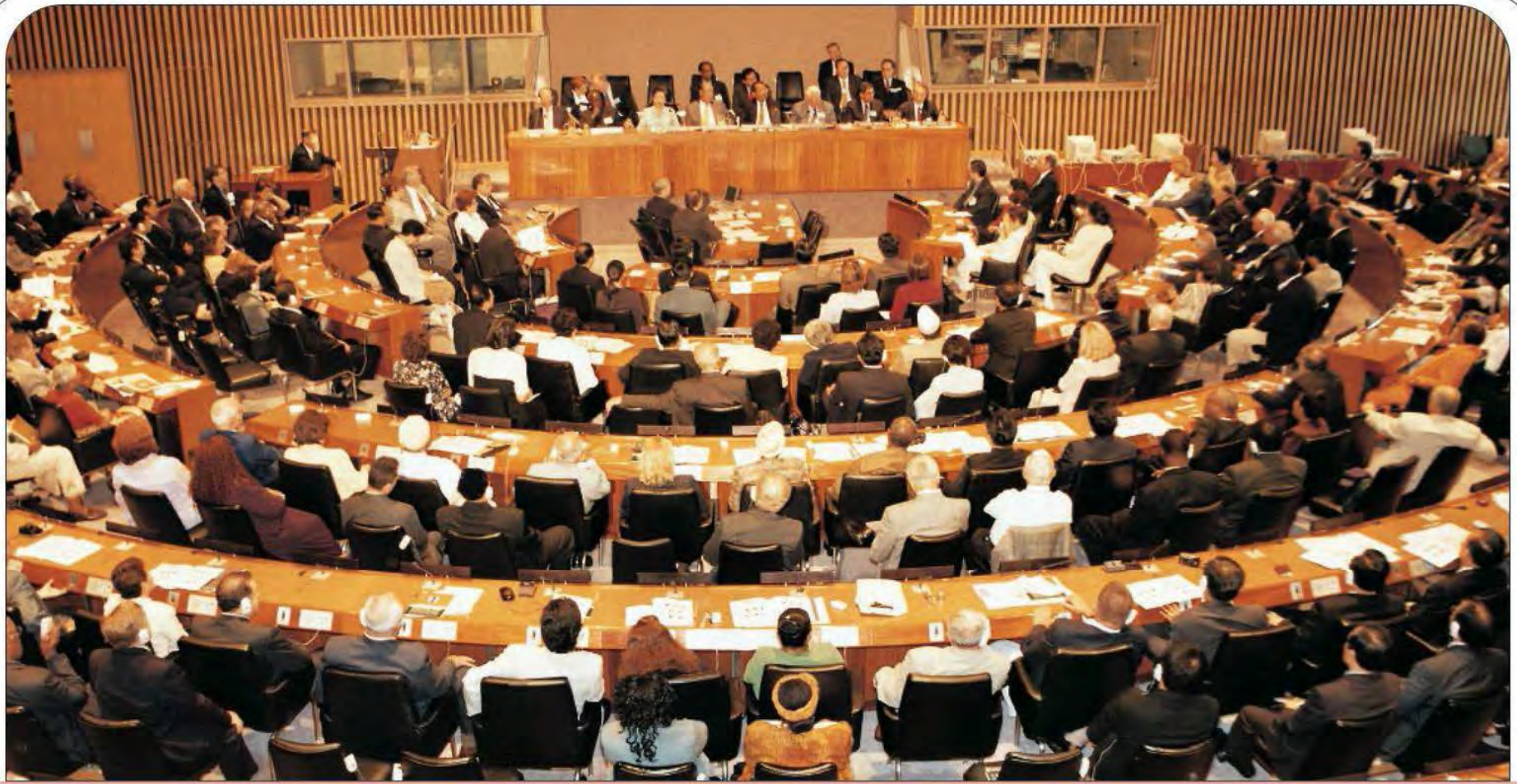


The challenge of public life placed great stress on the entire family. The Moons lost yet another son in a tragic accident.



At the age of eighty, many men would have given up.

But he didn't.



He went to the UN, declaring interfaith unity and cross-cultural marriage as the only true basis for peace.



He celebrated the blessing ceremony with spiritual leaders from many different religions.



He called for a Middle East Peace Initiative and urged the children of Abraham to unite at last.



Early results have been promising.



He built the Cheongpyeong campus in Korea, a model peace village, with a hospital, schools and a temple.



And started an Interreligious Peace Sports Festival to unite young people in peaceful competition.



Concerned for the renewal of the United Nations,
he launched the Universal Peace Federation in
September 2005 in New York.



Then he left on a grueling peace tour of 100 cities in 100 days, spreading the UPF foundation.



People studied the peace messages in more than 40 languages.



He challenged everyone, from volunteers to the Presidents of nations, to help build peace by 2012.



“Rev. Moon’s call for peace through religion is something of great nuance and profundity. We are deeply fortunate for the chance to hear him and observe his life-long struggle for world peace.”

*Abdurrahman Wahid,
President of Indonesia 1999-2001*



In June 2006, the Cheon Jeong Goong Peace Palace was opened in Korea.



Father and Mother Moon and their family believe the world of peace—a kingdom of God—can be built by 2012.