

Rev. Sun Myung Moon emerged as a great peacemaker and unifier on the world stage

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United States Secretary of State (1981–1982)

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Father and Alexander Haig had different providential roles in Hungnam North Korea (background: Congressman Danny Davis)

I first visited this historic land of Korea in 1950 as a member of the U.S. Tenth Corps, which landed at Inchon and liberated it. Two of my grandsons were born in Korea during the time my son served as executive assistant to the United Nations Commander. Thus, you might say that the Haig family is part Korean, nourished by three generations of experience!



Alexander M. Haig, Jr.

Together Rev. Moon and I have seen our paths converge on several important occasions, if not physically then certainly episodically.

He was born near North Korea's capital Pyongyang. After high school in Japan, he returned home and began to promote Christian values in clear opposition to the Godless communism that had gripped the northern half of the peninsula. Shortly after the invasion of the Republic in June 1950, Rev. Moon was imprisoned and sent to a concentration camp near Hungnam on North Korea's east coast.

Shortly after the Inchon landings, I was a part of the second United Nations amphibious landing near Hungnam. That action resulted in the liberation of Rev. Moon, who was able to flee to freedom in South Korea. This was the first time our paths crossed.

During the next two decades, we both in our own way struggled against communist tyranny and for the establishment of a world characterized by rule of law and peaceful change, in contrast to a world dominated by the rule of the bayonet and violent change.

In the early 1970s, during the period I served as President Nixon's chief of staff, Rev. Moon came to America to launch his ministry. Then, as today, his ministry was based on our most cherished Judeo-Christian values: that the family unit was to be safeguarded and strengthened, that our youth need to be provided with sound moral education, and that our religious institutions, regardless of denomination, must play a pivotal role in these tasks.

In carrying out his mission during that troubled time in America, the Reverend Moon and his Unification Church promoted the concept that the Watergate-besieged president of the United States was as entitled to due process and full protection of the law as any other American citizen. He opposed a process dominated by emotion, hatred or base political motivation. Being at the center of that Watergate maelstrom, I have been grateful to Rev. Moon, who as a result was himself subjected to retaliation from certain circles in the United States. While during that period the Rev. Moon suffered his share of pain, it did not deter him from continuing to promote his global mission.

Rev. Moon founded the Washington Times, which in my view has proven to be indispensable to the preservation of objective journalism in my nation's capitol. Rev. Moon's foresighted leadership prevented Washington from becoming a one-newspaper town, dominated by a distinct philosophic bias.

He emerged as a great peacemaker and unifier on the world stage. He was a leading force of inter-religious dialogue and understanding between peoples of all backgrounds and, above all, for global peace and stability.