

We countered recognition of South Vietnam's Revolutionary Government

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Cambodia's Khmer Rouge oppression

The front line has been predominantly political this month.

We had to move fast to counter a move within our government to recognize South Vietnam's Provisional Revolutionary Government [P.R.G.] and Cambodia's Khmer Rouge. Wellington members marched from the War Memorial to the center of the city (guarded on all sides by police and traffic wardens) bearing placards calling for New Zealanders to oppose recognition of the P.R.G. and Khmer Rouge. The leading banner showed a red hammer and sickle blotted out by a big black cross. The people stared at us but only one Hungarian boy dared to come with us. This boy was a refugee from the 1956 Hungarian Revolution.

Some Vietnamese people burst into tears when they saw us and ran over and kissed and hugged us but generally our march fell on blind and deaf ears. The people stared in blank amazement, nor knowing whether to support or oppose is. A few days later we read in the paper that our prime minister, Mr. Bill Rowling, had sent a telegram of recognition to the revolutionary governments of South Vietnam and Cambodia. This really was a deep disappointment.

The day before we marched we also sent letters to the prime minister and all his ministers showing them personally that any recognition of a communist government contravenes the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights.

A dozen replies arrived at our headquarters almost straight away, one of which was from the prime minister himself, and showed that there is a clear split in the government's attitude towards the Southeast Asian question. A few were extremely positive and were able to feel with the oppressed people of South Vietnam and Cambodia. Others wanted to know more about the reasons for our opposition to recognition. As a result we have formulated replies to these ministers. Gerald O'Brien was among those who replied to our letter. During this time of great world turmoil we have been having increasing contact with him.

Following our march an article about this event appeared in the national newspaper. Best of all, however, a very positive and informative program was broadcast over national radio. It talked very clearly about the reasons behind the march as well as explaining that society in the future should be one of mutual cooperation centered on God, as explained in Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Divine Principle.

The announcer had obviously done some research into the Unification Church and as a result presented a very honest and quite detailed program. The following week this announcer was contacted at his job by one of our brothers. Principle was explained to him in great detail and he became personally very interested. He has promised us future coverage of any of our public activities.

A television reporter visited our center to get some advice and information about Korea before she went there recently. She told us she was meeting with a camera crew in Korea to make a film about Korea. We gave her the address of International Headquarters at Chungpa-Dong, Seoul. At Chungpa-Dong she met with New Zealand brother Grant Bracefield, who introduced her to Colonel Pak. Colonel Pak gave her an interview.

She also filmed Rev. Moon speaking to a crowd of 20,000 people inside a hall and about twice as many outside the hall fighting to get in. When back in Wellington she said she had never seen anything like it or felt so much energy coming from any one person as she did from Rev. Moon, Colonel Pak and the Global Team. Hopefully the film will be broadcast on the national television network sometime in June.