

Declaration of Peace to End the Korean War

Whereas, we observe this year the 60st anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Agreement and the 68th anniversary of the U.S. military occupation of South Korea;

Whereas, although the Armistice Agreement of 1953 served its purpose of stopping the horrific fighting in Korea with a temporary ceasefire, it is now outdated and remains in a very precarious state due to the numerous violations of the provisions by the main parties to the Agreement;

Whereas, Article IV, paragraph 60, of the Armistice Agreement recommended “a political conference of a higher level of both sides” to reach “the peaceful settlement of the Korean question;”

Whereas, the United Nations, in its 1975 General Assembly Resolution 3390B, called upon the real parties to the Korean War Armistice Agreement to “replace” the Armistice with “a peace agreement as a measure to ease tension and maintain and consolidate peace in Korea;”

Whereas, as a main signatory to the Armistice Agreement, the U.S. government has a legal, moral obligation to end the Korean War officially, to promote further peace, reconciliation, inter-Korean cooperation, and self-determination in Korea;

Whereas, the Korean War was used by the United States government in imposing its longest economic sanctions against another nation, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), from the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950 to the present, hindering economic development in North Korea;

Whereas, the continuing state of war between the United States and DPRK is the root cause of the current military tensions and arms buildups on the Korean Peninsula;

Whereas, the lingering Korean War has been very costly to the United States, wasting some three trillion dollars of our tax money from 1945 to the present;

Whereas, talks concerning disarmament of nuclear weapons or human rights issues in Korea can be more productive after the state of war is terminated between the United States and North Korea;

Whereas, an official end to the Korean War will serve as a catalyst for a speedy reunion of some ten million divided family members in Korea and abroad, including many Korean Americans, who had been separated due to the war;

Whereas, an official end to the Korean War will also make it possible for a comprehensive search of some 7,000 missing U.S. soldiers from the Korean War;

Whereas, the DPRK government had proposed to the United States, from 1974 on, an official end to the Korean War with a peace treaty, and proposed it again on June 16, 2013;

Whereas, the U.S. government has persistently ignored or refused to negotiate a peace treaty to end the Korean War seriously, in order to maintain its imperial hegemony and military bases in Korea and East Asia, as well as to keep selling its weapons in the area;

Whereas, this arrogant refusal of the U.S. Empire to end the Korean War officially constitutes a gross violation of the Korean people's fundamental rights to peace, human security, freedom, and development, which are well recognized under international law; and

Whereas, recognizing the urgent need to end the Korean War finally by American people themselves, and convinced that such an ending will serve the interests of the Korean people, as well as the people of the United States and the world;

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Veterans For Peace (VFP), meeting at its national convention in Madison, Wisconsin, on August 10, 2013,

- 1) *Declares* to the world that the Korean War is over as far as VFP is concerned, and that we shall live in permanent peace and friendship with the Korean people, whether they are in or from the southern or northern parts of Korea;
- 2) *Expresses* our deep apology and regrets to the Korean people for the U. S. government's role in the tragic division of Korea, the great destruction and massacre of Korean civilians during the Korean War, the continuing military occupation and control of South Korea, and the persistent refusal to end the Korean War officially; and
- 3) *Urges* fellow Americans and other U.S. civil society groups to join this Declaration to end the Forgotten War finally in our own initiative, and reach out to the people in North Korea, in particular, to make peace with them.

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