

the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency Kim Yong-sam into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Kansas [Mr. DOLE];
The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN];

The Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS];

The Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. CHAFEE];

The Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER];

The Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI];

The Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS];

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE];

The Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. PELL];

The Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE];

The Senator from Georgia [Mr. NUNN];

The Senator from Ohio [Mr. GLENN]; and

The Senator from Virginia [Mr. ROBB].

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Ambassadors, Ministers, and Chargés d'Affaires of foreign governments.

The Ambassadors, Ministers, and Chargés d'Affaires of foreign governments entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them.

At 11 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m., the assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced His Excellency Kim Yong-sam, President of the Republic of Korea.

The President of the Republic of Korea, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER, Members of the Congress, it is my great privilege and I deem it a high honor and a personal pleasure to present to you His Excellency Kim Yong-sam, President of the Republic of Korea.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY
KIM YONG-SAM, PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

HIS EXCELLENCY KIM YONG-SAM.
Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, distinguished Members of the Senate and the House, ladies and gentlemen, I am deeply grateful to all of you for giving me the honor of addressing you in this historic Chamber of democracy, which represents the great American people.

As I stand here now, I feel as comfortable as if I were warmly meeting old friends in my hometown. This is probably because our own National Assembly became like a second home to me, since I served in it for nearly 40 years, after being elected for the first time at the age of 25. Furthermore, I

have always felt an affinity with this august body for your unwavering support in the course of our long and painful struggles for the democratization of the Republic of Korea. For that I am deeply grateful.

We Koreans feel a very warm sense of friendship toward the American people, who have always stood beside us as we built Korea into the country it is today, with blood, sweat and tears. At the same time, we earnestly hope that these ties of solidarity between our two countries will continue to mature as we approach the new century, which is opening new horizons for all humanity.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, the end of World War II in 1945 brought the blessings of liberation and independence to the Korean people. However, that was short-lived, since we soon were faced with the historic misfortune of national division, and 5 years later, the tragedy of fratricidal war.

Faced with the vestiges of colonial rule, the legacies of poverty, the ruins of war and the threat of communism, the Korean people set out to build a country. We moved forward with great hope for the future and a determination to achieve prosperity. It is this hope and determination that have fueled us as we have striven tirelessly for the past 40 years. And it is this hope and determination which have created today's Republic of Korea, a country which started out as one of the poorest in the world but which today is the world's 11th biggest economic power.

More important than all our other achievements, however, is that democracy has now fully blossomed in Korea. The division of the Korean Peninsula and the military confrontation between the South and the North have cast long dark shadows over the flowering of Korean democracy. Nonetheless, after a long and tenacious struggle for freedom and dignity, the people of the Republic of Korea were able to finally open an era of civilian-ruled democracy.

Over the last 2 years, we have poured all our efforts into bold changes and reforms to eradicate the ills left over from the era of military dictatorship and to build a truly democratic society. We have poured all our efforts into bold changes and reform, to build a true democracy in Korea. Beginning last year, we launched our *seggyehwa*, or globalization, policy and have been striving to turn our country into one which can make a greater contribution to the prosperity and well-being of the global community.

This is the story of the Republic of Korea, a country which began with nothing but bare hands and courage but managed to achieve democratization and industrialization in a short period of time, a country now proudly marching out toward the world and into the future.

Members of Congress, the Republic of Korea's success is, above all, the fruit of peace. If peace had not been main-

tained on the Korean Peninsula, the Korean people would not be able to enjoy the freedom and prosperity they have today. Peace, however, is something which must be purchased at a high price. Many young Americans shed their blood on the Korean Peninsula. Tomorrow will be a meaningful and emotional day, since all of us will gather to honor once again the Korean war heroes. The Korean War Veterans Memorial, which will be dedicated tomorrow, the 42d anniversary of the Korean war armistice, eloquently testifies to how precious peace is.

On behalf of the Korean people, I would like to take this opportunity to pay my respects to the memory of those young Americans who sacrificed their lives on Korea's battle front and express deep gratitude to all those brave soldiers who took part in the Korean war.

Just before I came to this Chamber, I had a chance to meet some of the Korean war veterans, and I would like to take this opportunity to pay my respects to the 28 Members of Congress who participated in the Korean war as young American soldiers. At the same time, I extend the gratitude of the Korean people to all the American soldiers who have guarded our Republic's frontline over the last 40-odd years and to their families.

Only a half century ago, our two countries felt very far apart, separated by the Pacific Ocean. Now we have become the closest friends. Instead of aid being given in only one direction, we have now forged a mature partnership where we help each other reciprocally, as we together strive toward continued freedom and prosperity.

The seeds of friendship our two countries have jointly nurtured have yielded a rich harvest. The success of our Republic is a joint victory of the people of Korea and the United States.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, and Members of Congress, the curtain has already been raised on the Asia-Pacific era. The Republic of Korea and the United States must open this era and reap its benefits even more fully through stronger solidarity.

The Asia-Pacific region has emerged as a new powerhouse of global development on the strength of its vigorous and sustained growth. This has been made possible by the United States long-term maintenance of stability and peace within the region. For the Asia-Pacific era to fully blossom, the United States must continue to play this role. Above all, safeguarding peace on the Korean Peninsula, situated at the heart of Northeast Asia, has become the key to the stability of the entire region.

More than 1.5 million heavily armed troops stand in sharp confrontation on the Korean Peninsula, the last remaining theater of the cold war. For over 40 years, the United States forces in Korea have made a decisive contribution to deterring war and preserving peace on the Korean Peninsula.

I would like to make it very clear to all of you today, to maintain peace in the Korean Peninsula and to maintain stability in the Asia-Pacific region, the United States forces in the Republic of Korea is necessary. The heightening of tension over the North Korean nuclear issue illustrates how potentially unstable the Korean Peninsula can be. We support the Kuala Lumpur accord reached between the United States and North Korea on the nuclear issue. Joint Korea-United States efforts to resolve the North Korean nuclear problem must be solidly maintained until all suspicions about North Korea's nuclear development have been removed. Accordingly, the Korean Government will exert its utmost efforts to ensure that the United States-North Korea agreed framework signed in Geneva is faithfully implemented.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, peace on the Korean Peninsula can only take root through dialog and cooperation between the South and the North, the two parties directly concerned. Without dialog, nothing can be accomplished. I am thus grateful that both the President and Congress have stressed the central importance of the South-North dialog.

We are exerting our utmost efforts to make this year a historic year, one which sees the opening of a new chapter in South-North relations, as we mark the 50th anniversary of Korea's joyous liberation, as well as its tragic national division. The Republic's unification policy aims to ultimately make Korea one nation and one state by gradually restoring a sense of national community through peaceful coexistence, reconciliation, and cooperation with the North. To that end, stability in North Korea is indispensable; therefore, we are pursuing a joint national development plan designed to promote the mutual prosperity of the South and the North. It is for this reason that the Republic is planning to shoulder the brunt of the costs of providing North Korea with the Korean-model light-water nuclear reactors and playing a central role in the overall project.

For the same reason, we are expanding South-North economic cooperation. Purely out of compassion for our Northern brethren, we are also providing rice to North Korea to help alleviate their difficult food situation. No matter how long and rough the road leading to the unification of the Korean Peninsula may be, we will continue to travel that road patiently but without rest. When the day comes that the Korean Peninsula finally becomes one nation again, genuine peace and prosperity will finally prevail in Northeast Asia.

This unified Korea, I believe, will make a major contribution to the progress of global civilization and the prosperity of all mankind.

Members of Congress, to foster the prosperity of the entire Asia-Pacific region, we must make sure that the ideals of free trade and liberalization

take root throughout the region. After World War II, the open markets of the Free World, under the leadership of the United States, were a critical factor in reducing poverty and defeating Communism.

Korea has indeed benefited greatly from free trade. I believe that all countries in the Asia-Pacific region should also benefit from free trade. It is precisely for this reason that, together with President Clinton, I have been devoting particular efforts to the development of the APEC forum. The Korean Government is also actively supporting multilateral cooperation under the new WTO system.

The United States is our Republic's biggest trading partner, while Korea has grown to be America's sixth largest market. Last year, bilateral trade exceeded U.S. \$40 billion, and it will soon reach the \$50 billion level. Korean-United States trade has generally been balanced, although recently Korea's trade deficit with the United States has risen rapidly.

Through our *seguehwa*, or globalization policy, the Korean Government has been actively promoting openness and autonomy in the economy and every other sector of society. We will continue to pursue our policy of liberalization in earnest and, by joining the OECD, we will raise our degree of openness to the level of the advanced countries. Among the developing countries, Korea has been liberalizing its markets at the fastest rate. As we continue to pursue autonomy and openness in the future, the Republic will become an even stronger partner of the United States in boosting the prosperity of the entire Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, and Members of Congress, a new world is unfolding before us in the 21st century. The importance of the role of the United States, however, has not diminished.

The Republic of Korea will expand its role and responsibilities in the international community. We plan to expand our assistance to developing countries drawing upon our past development experiences and also actively participating in international efforts to solve global problems.

The Korean people are filled with the hope that the cooperation between our two countries in preparation for the Asia-Pacific era of the 21st century will help turn the wheels of history swiftly forward. We are filled with determination to build a unified Korea and work with the American people as partners in peace and prosperity and thereby make a greater contribution to the world and to humanity.

This is the message from the Korean people I wish to deliver to you today. I am certain that you will recognize these sentiments, for they are the same as those which forged the American spirit and built such a great nation in the New World.

Let us march forward together shoulder to shoulder. Let us together open a

new century and a new world that will abound with limitless dreams, hopes and possibilities.

Many things have their limitations, but not the yearning of humanity for peace and prosperity. Like our friendship, it is boundless.

Thank you very much.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 11 o'clock and 44 minutes a.m., the President of the Republic of Korea, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Ambassadors, Ministers, and *Chargés d'Affaires* of foreign governments.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 11 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess until 12:15 p.m.

□ 1215

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RADANOVICH) at 12:15 p.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minute on each side.

FACTS CONCERNING MEDICARE

(Mr. EHLERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, today, as for the past several months, Members will hear during these 1-minute speeches various screams of anguish about the Medicare system, particularly from the other side of the aisle.

Today I come here as a scientist, because I am interested in the facts. I