



President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500
February 3, 2015

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the National Council of Churches (NCCCK), I bring the warmest greeting to you in the name of God of Peace.

As this year marks the 70th anniversary of Korean independence, we are desperately praying that this year must be the historical momentum for ending the division and opening a new era of reconciliation and co-prosperity for South and North Korea.

It is an encouraging sign that since the beginning of this year the mood for dialogue and reconciliation is being created between South and North, which will converge into our journey towards peaceful reunification. We firmly believe that peace and stability in the Korean peninsula will be a seed for bringing peace and stability to East Asia as well as to the entire world.

We were much encouraged by your wise and courageous decision to restore diplomatic relations with Cuba. We regard that in resolving the decade-long deadlock, a policy of engagement is more effective and constructive than a policy of isolation. However, we regret that you are moving in the opposite direction regarding North Korea. In repose to the Sony cyberhacking incident, the sanctions against Pyongyang have been intensified. As you are well aware, the decade-long sanctions have devastated the economic basis in North Korea, aggravating pain among the North Korean people. Furthermore, due to the sanctions humanitarian needs including food aid and encounter of the separated families have not been fulfilled. In short, the isolation policy towards North Korea has been futile and even counterproductive as it has been a great obstacle

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to peace and stability in the Korean peninsula.

Therefore the NCCCK sincerely asks you to consider applying the new "Cuba Model" to North Korea that will end the counterproductive sanctions and pave ways to peaceful reunification through dialogue and exchange.

I wish God's grace and love be with you and your administration and I look forward to having your response soon.

In Peace,

Rev. Dr. Kim Young-Ju
General Secretary
National Council of Churches in Korea

Attached: A letter to President Park Keun-hye