

Korean CIA Tied to Moon Rally

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The South Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA) requested the massive demonstrations that followers of South Korean evangelist Sun Myung Moon staged on Capitol Hill in 1974 opposing the congressional impeachment investigation of President Richard M. Nixon, according to information received by Justice Department investigators.

According to informed sources in both Justice and the State Department, the FBI recently learned from 2- to 3-year-old secret intelligence reports that the KCIA asked Pak Bo Hi, a South Korean frequently in residence here who has been Moon's

chief aide and translator, to arrange for the fervent pro-Nixon demonstrations at the Capitol by Moon's followers.

The information is being used by Justice investigators to help determine Pak Bo Hi's role in an extensive effort by agents of the South Korean government to manipulate public opinion and influence U.S. congressmen with cash, gifts and campaign contributions, according to informed sources. The investigators are not now directly interested in other activities of Sun Myung Moon and his Unification Church, according to the sources.

According to U.S. intelligence information, Pak Bo Hi met in the Blue House presidential mansion in Seoul

with South Korean president Park Chung Hee, Washington-based South Korean businessman Tongsun Park and KCIA officials in late 1970 to discuss plans for the influence-buying here. In a recent statement he gave to reporters without allowing them to ask questions, Pak categorically denied that he had any role in this scheme or any connections to the KCIA.

According to an informed source within the South Korean Embassy here, embassy personnel believed that Pak's activities were directed from Seoul where Pak purportedly was close to both Park Chung Hee and high ranking KCIA officials.

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The source said that the then South Korean Ambassador to the United States, Hahn Pyong-choon, was reluctant to get publicly involved with the Unification Church or make contact with Pak and Moon for fear of embarrassment.

As a result of Hahn's aloof attitude, according to the source, Pak dealt directly with Seoul. Hahn deeply resented both Pak's use of the Unification Church for political activities here and Pak's ability to use KCIA communication lines to Seoul, the source said.

The KCIA probably choose to use Pak and the Unification Church to support Nixon, the source said, because they were sufficiently removed from the Embassy to avoid embarrassment to the South Korean government.

Another reason for using Pak, the source added, was that Hahn was extremely optimistic until the very end about Nixon's chances of surviving the congressional impeachment inquiry.

The South Korean diplomatic source also said that 1974 attempts by South Korean National assemblyman Ro Chin Hwan to offer campaign contributions to U.S. congressmen friendly to Nixon were also part of a broad strategy to try to keep Nixon in the U.S. presidency. Nixon was generally believed to support South Korean requests for U.S. economic and military aid.

The Washington Post reported last February that Ro visited White House aide John Nidecker in 1974 and offered to contribute to the campaigns of any U.S. legislators the White House designated. Nidecker refused the offer. The South Korean govern-

ment recently denied that Ro was an official representative of it at the time.

The Post also reported that Ro offered a campaign contribution to Rep. Charles E. Wiggins (R-Calif.), a member of the House Judiciary Committee, which drew up, debated and voted on the impeachment resolution. Wiggins, who said he refused the offered contribution, was, until the release of the June 23, 1972, White House tape that directly implicated Nixon, one of Nixon's outspoken defenders.

According to Neil A. Salonen, president of the U. S. branch of the Unification Church, the demonstrations all took place under the auspices of a nonprofit corporation, the National Prayer and Fast Committee. All of the committee's incorporators are members of Unification Church, according to Salonen, although persons who were not church members also took part in the demonstrations. It was reported at the time that Rabbi Baruch Korff, a vocal Nixon supporter, was active in the demonstrations.

Salonen denied any knowledge of KCIA involvement in inspiring the demonstrations. Salonen said that Pak had personally assured him that Pak had no KCIA connections.

Salonen said his committee was formed to promote a declaration on Watergate made by Rev. Moon in November, 1973, that called for a commitment "Forgive, Love, Unite!" Salonen had said at the time that Moon's declaration came from a direct revelation from God to Moon that "we ought to forgive this man (Nixon)."

While pointing out that Rev. Moon is very strong willed, Salonen acknowledged that Pak has had more input than any other individual in Moon's formulation of public statements and policy.

The National Prayer and Fast Com-

mittee distributed literature and planned a series of demonstrations including two fasts, Salonen said. Some 50,000 persons filled out coupons in response to Moon's call for forgiveness, according to Salonen, and at times, 1,000 persons were demonstrating on Capitol Hill.

At the time of the Supreme Court decision compelling Nixon to release White House tapes of his conversations under subpoena by the Watergate special prosecutor's office, nearly 1,000 demonstrators encircled the Capitol office buildings, each demonstrator wearing a sandwich board saying "I am praying for Congressman . . ." followed by the name of a Representative or Senator with his picture.

Salonen said the Moon movement actions were not a "pro-or anti-impeachment declaration, but rather "emphasized the importance of prayer before" deciding the impeachment question, Salonen acknowledged, however, that the majority of the demonstrators were clearly opposed to impeachment.

It was reported at the time that demonstrators chanted such slogans as "God needs Nixon," "God supports Nixon," and "We support Nixon."

The demonstrations occurred periodically from December of 1973 until Nixon's resignation in August of 1974. One vigil lasted 27 hours.

"We hoped that (we) would move the debate to a higher level," Salonen said. "We were concerned that it provided an opportunity for people with a political grudge to be morally outraged for political reasons."

Salonen said Pak was traveling with Moon throughout much of 1974 and was rarely in Washington. He said

Pak was not on the board of directors of the National Prayer and Fast Committee.

S. Bruce Herschensohn, the Nixon White House liaison to this committee who had dealt with Moon's representatives on several occasions, refused to comment on this account.