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Koreans Woo Hill on Two Levels

The South Korean effort to seduce members of Congress has been two-tiered. The Rev. Sun Myung Moon, the Korean holy man, took the high, ecclesiastical road, and Tongsun Park, a Korean entrepreneur, followed the low, wayward road.

Both men have been tied to the South Korean lobbying campaign by The Washington Post, which cited "electronic evidence." According to The Post, a tape recording apparently exists of a discussion between South Korea's President Park Chung Hee, Moon aide Pak Bo Hi and the shadowy Tongsun Park.

At the meeting, the three men worked out "a plan to influence U.S. congressmen," The Washington Post reported.

The South Korean government has denied any connection between President Park and entrepreneur Park. Moon's man has denied that the meeting ever took place and has challenged his accusers to produce the alleged recording. There have also been over-the-shoulder denials from Tongsun Park at airports from Tokyo to Paris.

Both the ecclesiastic and the entrepreneur, nevertheless, suddenly became active on Capitol Hill in the early 1970s. By the beginning of this year, we were able to count 19 Moon missionaries operating on Capitol Hill. We reported on Jan. 12, 1976: "They stroll the hallways daily, buttonholing senators and congressmen, offering free trips and other inducements."

Moon himself made two evangelical appearances on Capitol Hill before our calls made it impossible for him to find a sponsor who would arrange a room for him. At no time did we question his right to deliver a religious message; we

were troubled only by the political overtones. Congressmen reported to us, for example, that Moon missionaries had offered them free trips to Korea.

Those who heard Moon preach on Capitol Hill say he delivered a strong anti-Communist message, laced with Christian philosophy. They recall that he linked the United States, Israel and South Korea as the three great bulwarks against communism. He also defended Richard Nixon during the Watergate crisis.

He spoke in Korean, with Pak Bo Hi delivering the translations. Koreans told us that Moon's remarks were often rambling and ambiguous, but the translations invariably were precise and pointed. Our sources have the impression that Pak, indeed, is the Rasputin behind the benevolent, smiling Moon.

Each of the evangelist's appearances on Capitol Hill was attended by about 100 people. Perhaps 15 to 20 were members of Congress, the remainder aides and secretaries. Rep. William V. Chappell Jr. (D-Fla.) introduced Moon at the first rally; Rep. Richard H. Ichord (D-Mo.) made the second introduction.

The Moon movement's biggest catch in Congress was House Speaker Carl Albert. We reported on Dec. 9, 1975, that Susan Bergman, a young, hazel-eyed disciple of the Korean religious-political cultist, had developed a curious relationship with the Speaker.

In the mornings, she would greet him in the hallway and present him with flowers. Then she would brew Ginseng tea for him in the small kitchen down the hall from his office.

She would serve it to him in the Speaker's ornate chambers, where she stayed for an hour or two each morning.

Albert described the Moon missionary to us as "just a nice girl, a very nice girl, a Jewish girl from New York. She got all hepped up on the Lord Jesus, and she just wants to share it. I think that's a nice thing. She's trying to convert me." As he talked, we noticed a black-covered, gold-trimmed copy of Moon's catechism, "Divine Principle," on the Speaker's shelf.

While the Reverend Moon quoted the Bible to religious congressmen, Tongsun Park allegedly passed out cash and gifts to the irreligious. The Washington Post, quoting federal investigators, has charged that he distributed between \$500,000 and \$1 million each year to congressmen and other Washington officials.

We first got wind of Park's activities in early 1974 when we caught him on a strange trip with Rep. Richard Hanna (D-Calif.) We told the story on April 1, 1974.

A classified cable from the U.S. Embassy in Sana, Yemen, reported that the congressman "was joined here by a Mr. Park, a former South Korean national engaged in shipping, elaboration of foreign investment opportunities and apparently political lobbying in Washington."

We asked Park why he happened to be touring the Middle East with a congressman. They traveled together, said Park, because Hanna "is like my brother."

Despite these reports in 1974, the State Department didn't get around to investigating Tongsun Park's activities until November, 1975.