

Hon. Dr. Werner Fasslabend (Austria), 2020 World Peace Academic Conference, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>  
Section 2: Dr. Moon's Declaration of the End of Communism  
"New Challenges Need New Identities"

Thank you for your extravagant praise. Before launching into my talk let me briefly introduce myself. I was born and raised in a small town in lower Austria barely a hundred meters from the border with Slovakia which lay behind the Iron Curtain. From early childhood I confronted the reality of the division of the East and West Bloc. Almost every week, during the night we would hear shouts and cries of people, barking dogs, and shooting on the other side. This is an experience a young boy will never forget. The question of how to overcome the system across the frontier occupied me since early childhood. I will attempt to apply the lessons we learned through handling the process of German reunification to the situation you confront in Korea. For this I wish to present eight main points we have gleaned that may be helpful for you.

Firstly, to overcome such a complex political and strategic situation where the whole world is intensely engaged and polarized, you need a solid political basis. If you ask what constitutes a political basis, I would say it's the people themselves. Recalling our experience, in the late 1940s the two major alliances were established: NATO on one side and the Warsaw Pact on the other. Already in 1953 the first rebellion broke out in Berlin, when citizens took to the streets and stood up to Soviet tanks with bare hands. Of course, they had no chance and were promptly defeated. Just three years later a similar uprising happened in Budapest, Hungary. People demonstrated, fighting without weapons against Soviet tanks with no chance of winning. The insurgence lasted a bit longer, but was likewise suppressed. Twelve years after that was the Prague Spring in 1968. Unarmed Czechs walked the streets, facing down Soviet tanks. The whole Warsaw Pact system concentrated its troops there. Of course they quashed it. For the period of a few years no one dared to stand up, but twelve years later in the Polish shipyards of Gdansk a simple union worker Lech Wałęsa organized the Solidarity movement. Nobody could defeat the workers because the Soviet Union could not mow down their own Communist Party workers. If they did so they would have lost all credibility. So we see that in the long run people's dreams, visions and ambitions probably is the most decisive factor to overcome such a juggernaut as the communist system.

Secondly, what can you do from the political side? What is necessary is not just to follow a pure principle, obstinately insisting on your position. If we are to overcome the obstacle, of course we must seek new approaches and methods, which entails a certain pragmatism. Thinking back, it was just two years after the Soviet army demolished the Prague Spring. German Chancellor Willy Brandt shaped his new Ostpolitik, or Eastern policy, which involved opening dialogue with the other side in a very pragmatic way. He did not like those people nor their system, but he undertook this way for the sake of overcoming the barriers. We must consider the current situation in its context. I think this is extremely important.

Thirdly, as the Cold War began to draw to a close, Helmut Kohl sought the friendship of Mr. Gorbachev on the other side. He invested not only to come together, but did his best to prepare an atmosphere of familiarity. Instead of coming with suit and tie, he met Gorbachev wearing a simple shirt and his best smile. You see, this personal relationship in political affairs is very important and will be so in the future.

Fourth: You must be equipped with a positive program offering freedom, peace and prosperity. This was developed just a few years after the Prague Spring uprising in Czechoslovakia. Both sides, East and West, decided to go this route, and embarked on the negotiation process called the CSCE (Committee

on Security and Cooperation in Europe). They shared “three baskets”: security, economic cooperation, and humanitarian issues. Each of these was vitally important for the success of the process.

My fifth point is that we must not only design a new program and procedure, but make it permanent. It's remarkable that the CSCE process lasted through the end of the Cold War and then developed into an international organization, the OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) which still exists. Why? Because in politics you never can predict the outcome. When the right moment comes, if you have a steady, eternal foundation based on which you can overcome difficulties; in the meantime wait for the next best opportunity. This is certainly a useful mindset.

The sixth point is never to act only out of a position of weakness but try to act from a position of power — not overwhelming power but equal power is enough. Do so not just by offering unilaterally to the counterpart, but also taking a firm stance where you are able to keep your own position. I think this give-and-take is a precondition for success. If we look back on what happened, it is rather interesting that during that period we had the so-called NATO “Double-Track Decision.” On the one hand they enforced new armament and at the same time they offered dialogue to the Warsaw Pact from a position of strength. The two sides entered dialogue and it was ultimately successful.

Seventh, I suggest that it is beneficial to familiarize yourself not only with political leaders but also with private personalities and civil society. This is important in negotiations with big statesmen like Helmut Kohl, François Mitterrand, Mikhail Gorbachev, Willy Brandt, and Ronald Reagan as well as other public figures. Think what an important role the Polish Pope John Paul II played at that time. He was a literate, educated man who understood the Slavs. Czech president Vaclav Havel in his testimony to Pope John Paul II stressed how important it is not only to do politics but to be involved with all parts of society.

The eighth and final point I would share is to prepare yourself for the unexpected, because you never know when it will occur. Prepare yourself for reunification and keep patience before and after. Even after reunification you need endurance, as we see in the case of East and West Germany. You should always think how to prepare for it in the best way. Just think what will happen when Korea is united: It will fundamentally change the strategic situation in East Asia, establishing the Far East as a new powerhouse with the economic strength of the South and the military might of the North. Korea will be a formidable nation comparable to Japan and the U.S. This scenario will be more manageable for other nations, but it will bring serious concerns as well. We know that before German unification, they were two nations opposing one another. Two NATO allies, France and the U.K., opposed reunification; only a leader such as Kohl was capable of responding and taking quick action to overcome the situation. So you must prepare yourself psychologically for what will be necessary in order to handle what will happen after reunification. It is a huge challenge, of course. Going back to the beginning, I would say the most important thing is to never give up. Even if you find yourself in an extremely difficult situation that no one had imagined could happen, do not forget: Keep believing. When people keep believing and have confidence in their political system, you can be sure you will reach the goal and go forward. Why? Because unification is certainly the dream, vision and ambition of the Korean people. Sooner or later it will come about. It will solve the main Korean problem; but it will present many lesser problems for the nation. All the same, North-South Korean unification is extremely important for security and stability in eastern Asia and for peace and security all around the world. Thank you for your attention.