

INSTITUTE FOR RELIGION & PUBLIC POLICY

June 28, 2006

Bundeskanzlerin Angela Merkel
Bundeskanzleramt
11044 Berlin
Federal Republic of Germany

Dear Chancellor Merkel,

I am writing to seek the revocation of the “persona non grata” status of Reverend and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon and to request permission for them to enter Germany. Since 1995 Reverend Moon and his wife have been unjustly listed in the Schengen Information System. As a result both have been banned from entry into each of the fifteen Schengen countries.

The Schengen Information System (SIS) was enacted in 1990 for the purpose of thwarting trafficking of stolen goods and property, eliminating cross-national identity fraud, and locating fugitives from the law. Unfortunately in this case, this law and correlating ban intended to frustrate criminals has been applied those who, in fact, abide by the law.

The rationale exhibited by the German Government in favor of an entry ban is a cause for concern. The Government has stated that it “feared” the German people would respond to Reverend Moon’s visit with hostility and thus threaten order and security. This unsubstantiated reasoning surfaced despite numerous previous visits by Reverend Moon that resulted in no such societal backlash.

The Government also asserts that the Unification Church is a so-called “youth sect” and psycho-group. These groups are classified as dangerous to the harmony of societal relations and also have the ability of corrupting the personality development of the youth. Evidence reveals that the average age of Church members is over 35 years. In addition, the “Enquete Commission” of 1998 further undermined the preposterous notion proposed by the Government when it stated that “religious or ideological groups pose no danger to the German State or society”.

Perhaps the most perplexing reason the Government gives to legitimize barring entry into the country is global domination. The Government asserts that Reverend Moon and his followers aspire to take over the world because they use such terms in their dogma as “Establishing the Kingdom of Heaven” and the “Kingdom of God”. To argue that using these phrases constitutes intention of world domination would also implicate an untold number of religions, including all Christian denominations, in similar plans.

Respected figures and groups in the international community have also spoken against the entry ban. Former Secretary of State Colin Powell, former Secretary General of NATO Alexander Haig, former presidents, and prime ministers of European countries, have all voiced their discontent with the misapplication of the SIS. The German Lutheran Church has also stated publicly that banning Reverend Moon is an excessive act.

Madame Chancellor, I ask that you review the case against Reverend and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon. I truly believe that upon examining the details of the reasoning behind their barred entrance, you will see fit to remove this unjust stigma.

With cordial personal regards and best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Joseph K. Grieboski
President