

TELEGRAM (Re-typed version; original is on file)

TO: AMBASSY BERLIN – PRIORITY
FROM: SECSTATE WASHDC
DATE: DECEMBER 31,2001
SUBJ: LIFTING OF SCHENGEN BAN ON THE UNIFICATION CHURCH

1. The German government is currently considering whether to renew the Schengen visa ban against Rev. and Mrs. Moon, founders of the Unification Church. Rev. and Mrs. Moon have been banned from entering Germany for the past three years. The German courts have set January 31st, 2002 as the date for the government either to present evidence supporting a renewal of the ban or to permit its expiration.
2. Germany is a signatory to the International Covenant on civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Article 18(1) of the ICCPR states that “Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion of belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.”

Consistent with the German Government’s policy of promoting religious freedom for all, and in view of the international norms of religious freedom contained in Article 18(1) of the ICCPR, Department wishes to express to German authorities USG support for allowing the visa ban to expire, barring any evidence of criminal or public safety issues involving the Unification Church over the past three years.

3. Following up on its discussions with officials at the Ministry for Families, Seniors, Women and Youth, Embassy is requested deliver the following points to the Ministry of Interior at the highest appropriate level:

Suggested Talking Points:

- We understand that the German government is considering whether to renew the visa ban, applied under the auspices of the Schengen Treaty against the founders of the Unification Church, Rev. and Mrs. Moon, for another three years.
- We understand that the criteria for continuing the ban include threats to public safety or criminal activity.
- We are not aware that there are any issues of criminal activity, or that there are any public safety issues, involving members of the Unification Church in Germany.
- Religious freedom is a fundamental human right guaranteed by article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which both our governments are party, and which we both strongly support.
- In absence of compelling reasons for continuing the ban, we would urge you to allow the visa ban against Rev. and Mrs. Moon to expire.

POWELL